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Sad times

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Page 19



Another loss

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Man hurt in 'fall out off bedsit window'

A MAN suffered a fractured skull and back after it was reported he had plummeted from a bedsit window in Walsall.

The man, in his 40s, was discovered with a broken wrist at about 5.40am on Monday outside Happy Times hostel in Stafford Street.

A 43-year-old man arrested on suspicion of assault has been released without charge.

A man who lives at the block, who asked not to be named, said he had been told a man had fallen from a first-floor window and added: "I got woken up by flashing lights at around 5.30am. I heard a man has been arrested."

Residents spoke of their shock at hearing of the alleged attack and seeing emergency services swoop on the scene in the early hours.

Nazia Akhtar, aged 32, of nearby Bloxwich Road, said: "I saw the police there this morning and that was the first I knew about it. I just hope the person is OK."

Another resident in Bloxwich Road said: "It was a bit of a shock to see the police and the cordon."

Police spokeswoman Gina Lycett confirmed investigating officers were following a line of inquiry that the man had been injured in a fall from a window.

She asked for witnesses to call police on 101.

Appeal over sports field

CAMPAIGNERS fighting for once-contaminated playing fields to be brought back into use for cricket and football raised a 100-signature petition calling for changing rooms to be revamped.

Bad weather earlier this year pushed back the long-awaited return of sport at Broadway West Playing Fields. Petition collector Mohammed Yasin, a former Palfrey councillor, has handed it in to Walsall Council.

£1m HOSPITAL BILL ATTACKED

THE £1 million spent on agency staff in a single month at Walsall Manor Hospital has been branded 'excessive' by a health campaigner who said he is concerned about a lack of permanent workers.

by Adam Burling

The combined bill for agency, bank and locum staff at the hospital soared to £2 million during September.

It continues the trend of rising bills for temporary workers and comes despite Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust insisting steps are being taken to drive down the bill.

Emergency admissions have rocketed by up to 40 per cent at the Manor, with rising numbers of patients from Staffordshire. Bosses estimate an extra £14m needs to be invested in the hospital to create extra capacity. They are also looking to recruit up to 130 extra staff at the hospital, including apprentices, to help reduce the need for temporary workers used.

Argue

Councillor Pete Smith, who is a member of the Walsall Health and Well Being Board, said: "I think this excessive amount demonstrates a shortage of permanent staff."

"If they had enough permanent staff they wouldn't need to spend this much. With all due respect, is agency staff are not there all the time one could argue that care could be inconsistent."

Councillor Smith, who has led campaigns against the closure of Gosport Hospital and a previous proposal for the merger of Wolverhampton and Walsall hospital trusts, said he hoped a recruitment drive by hospi-

tal chiefs would solve the issue.

In September, £1.058m was spent on agency workers, £549,000 on bank staff and £453,000 on locum workers. In the last two months the cost has amounted to £4.1m. This compares to £4.39m in the three months of April, May and June.

Trust chief executive Richard Kirby said: "Providing safe, high quality services is one of our top priorities and we are continuing to invest money in order to keep our patients safe. We are still seeing high levels of demand placed on our services and to deal with this we have opened additional capacity, which requires staffing."

"The use of agency and temporary staff is a focus area for us and through our recent recruitment campaign we have appointed a number of permanent nurses who will be starting at the Trust over the coming weeks."

The hospital has already revealed more than £1m is to be ploughed into recruiting extra staff and extending the A&E this winter.

Demand on the Manor will further increase under plans to strip services from Stafford Hospital, which will lose its maternity unit.

Major surgery and children's inpatient care are due to move elsewhere.

● A&E target - Page 2

Youngsters find their rhythm



Keeping the beat - four year-old-Fidel Oliver gets into the rhythm of an African drum workshop with guest musicians Calvert Lawson and Lorraine Lionheart, while staff member Mandi Purchase helps Holly-Louise Harper

CARIBBEAN drum beats raised the roof as a children's centre enjoyed entertainment put on to mark Black History Month.

Children and parents got into the rhythm at Sure Start Blakenall Children's Centre, Walsall.

Guest musician Calvert Lawson, of Kalillo Drumming, ran a special workshop for young families to explore rhythms and tunes in a fun environment.

Programme manager at the Blake-

nall Row centre, Carol Ferron-Smith, said: "It was great to see the children and their families enjoying something different and having fun together."

Mr Lawson played the flute and drums and gave parents and children a chance to take turns playing instruments from his collection of traditional drums. He was returning to the centre by popular demand following a successful visit last year.

The event was organised by Library Links worker Mandi Purchase who

said: "Holding the event at the centre with Calvert brought the diverse and rich heritage of Caribbean culture to life. "It was so good to have parents and children joining in to add a little Caribbean flavour to half-term activities and celebrate Black History Month."

Earlier this month the centre, which has an outstanding rating from Ofsted, hosted a visit by Faith and Communities Minister Baroness Warsi, who spoke to the children and staff.

Kimron to drive the Poppy Day message

A-EX forces coach driver from Walsall is driving forward his support for the Poppy Appeal - as National Express puts poppy logos on all its coaches.

Former infantryman Kimron Musa, aged 23, has been chosen by Birmingham-based coach operator National Express to be the regional face of its campaign to support the Royal British Legion.

Mr Musa served in the 13 Air Assault Support Regiment before becoming a driver for the UK's largest coach operator.

National Express has adorned its fleet with the poppy logo to commemorate Remembrance Day.

Mr Musa, who drives the 210 and 777 services from Birmingham to Gatwick and Stansted airports, said: "I'm really pleased that National Express is showing its support for the Royal British Legion by putting poppies on the coaches."

● Parking charges in Walsall will be scrapped again this Remembrance Sunday. Fees on Walsall Council car parks will be waived when people gather at the town centre Cenotaph to pay their respects.

There will be laying of wreaths at 11am at the Memorial Stone next to Rushall Library followed by a service at the Church of Christ the King, which is on the other side of the Lichfield Road in Rushall.

Tidy-up hits the streets

A PROJECT to inspire residents to take pride in their community hit the streets on Monday.

Caldmore Traders Association's reclaim your pavement project, launched as part of its Time For Change Project initiative, has been organised by its chairman Ali Mahmood.

It is being supported by Walsall Police, Caldmore Accord Housing Association, Walsall Housing Group and Walsall Council.

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A&E patients not seen quickly enough

NOT enough patients at Walsall Manor Hospital are being seen within a four hour target.

Health chiefs failed to meet the 95 per cent national standard for people going through the A&E department for the second month in a row.

Bosses blame the situation on admissions elsewhere in the hospital which has resulted in increased demand for inpatient beds and insist steps are already being taken to improve.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust chairman Ben Reid told a board meeting: "There is an issue here and it is not good. The pressures are going to

get worse as the winter goes forward. We are in a place now in which we are regularly not hitting targets." Figures for September show the amount of patients being seen at A&E within four hours was 93 per cent. The number of people seen in the unit for the month was 7,854. Figures for August were 94 per cent.

Manor chief executive Richard Kirby told the meeting: "We just missed the 95 per cent target in August. We missed it more substantially in September and we have continued to struggle in October." He added that other NHS trusts were

under a significant amount of pressure." His A&E staff were seeing large increase in numbers attending for treatment but the majority who waited more than four hours were waiting for a bed.

Mr Kirby said while some people were arriving from Staffordshire there was also a marked increase in Walsall residents attending the unit. These included working age men exhibiting signs of 'heart disease, or respiratory problems often combined with alcohol related issues'. There has also been an increase in admission of frail elderly.

Fraudster illegally claimed £24,000

A BENEFIT fraudster illegally claimed more than £24,000 after she failed to declare she had savings which disqualified her from receiving aid, magistrates heard.

Deborah Lavender, aged 48, admitted two charges of failing to notify of a change in circumstances and three of making a false statement in relation to council tax benefits and income support over a 10-year period.

Mr Mark Cooper, prosecuting, told Walsall Magistrates Court Lavender had correctly applied for welfare benefits 23 years ago, but in subsequent case reviews had failed to declare her circumstances had changed.

Mr Cooper said between 2001 and 2011 unemployed Lavender, of Wesson Road, Rough Hay, Darlaston, was overpaid £17,608 in income support and £6,839 in council tax.

"When interviewed she made a full and frank admission," Mr Cooper said.

The magistrates adjourned the matter for reports. Mr Ian Henery, defending, gave no mitigation. Lavender was granted unconditional bail until November 14.

Changes to bus service

A BUS service between Walsall and Wolverhampton has been changed.

Trips to the city's markets will be on the altered No.19 bus service.

The service will run approximately every 30 minutes from Monday to Saturday between Walsall, Harden, Blakenall Heath, Bloxwich, New Invention, Wednesfield and Heath Town. In Wolverhampton it will run along Broad Street, Lichfield Street, Victoria Street, Skinner Street, School Street, Salop Street and Peel Street to terminate in Pitt Street.

College survey

STUDENTS at a Walsall College have given it a rousing thumbs up in a survey. In the study, 98 per cent of students rated the quality of teaching at Walsall Adult and Community College as 'good' or 'outstanding'. More than 1,500 students were asked to give their verdict.

Car-clocking gang jailed for sophisticated fraud

THEY clocked the mileage on dozens of cars and sold them on with forged documents to con unsuspecting customers.

Drivers who thought they were getting their hands on top quality bargains had actually been duped into buying cars worth no more than their scrap value that had travelled tens of thousands of miles more than they believed.

But the gang behind the 'professionally-run' car-clocking racket that sold cars with false or forged documents for at least £227,815 is behind bars.

A fifth defendant - a trainee solicitor - was handed a suspended prison sentence for her part in the 'sophisticated' fraud.

The gang, which operated as Enzo Motors, Great Bridge Street, West Bromwich, and Netherton Motors, Halesowen Road, Netherton, would buy second-hand cars and take tens of thousands of miles off the odometer.

Dealer

They would also forge service books, MOT and HPI documents, and had acquired dealer service stamps during the fraud, which took place between December 2009 and February 2011.

Giving examples of their operation at Wolverhampton Crown Court, Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting, said one VW Golf was bought in September 2010 with 129,000 miles on the clock, before being sold four days later with 67,000 miles.

It had a fake MOT, service book and invoice, and made £1,500 profit.

The total profit made from the group's illegal sales has not yet been calculated, and the amount of money each will need to pay back will be decided at a hearing in May.

Mr Jackson said: "This was an extremely sophisticated and professionally-run fraud operation."

The complex fraud began to unravel when a complaint was made to Sandwell Council's trading standards team in July 2010 about a Vauxhall Astra clocked down from 138,000 to 58,000, bought from one of the defendants, Inderjit Sohal.



Pardeep Shinh - 18 months jail

Following warrants carried out by trading standards a number of text messages were found, sent between some of the defendants, which talked about selling clocked cars which they called 'vipers', and how much money they should be making from them. The fraud also ran alongside a legitimate second-hand car business.

Although the roles of the four men were difficult to distinguish, Mr Jackson said. All four were responsible for selling clocked cars from Enzo and Netherton. The fifth defendant, Karmjit Sohal, did not sell cars, but appeared to have played a role in buying and advertising cars, and dealing with money.

Inderjit Sohal, 26, of Sherlock Close, Willenhall, and Sundeeep Shinh, 27, of Woodruff Way, Walsall, were both sentenced to 36 months in jail for pleading guilty to two charges of conspiracy to defraud.

Pardeep Shinh, 33, of Tanacetum



Defendants Jatinder Sandher and Sundeeep Shinh - both were jailed



Karmjit Sohal - played a part

Drive, Walsall, was also given 36 months in prison after pleading guilty to one charge of conspiracy to defraud, even though the judge recognised he had less involvement. Jatinder Sandher, 28, of Brookfield Way, Tipton, was given a 32-month jail term after pleading guilty at the earliest opportunity to two charges of conspiracy to defraud.

Assess

Karmjit Sohal, 24, of Sherlock Close, Willenhall, was given an 18-month sentence, suspended for two years, and 150 hours of unpaid work. She was found guilty of two counts of conspiracy to defraud following a trial in September.

Mr Christopher Loach, defending Inderjit Sohal, said it 'would be wrong to assess the whole business as fraudulent and dishonest', as they were also selling legitimate cars 'on a substantial basis'.

Mr Stephen Blower, defending both Jatinder Sandher and Sundeeep



Jailed - Inderjit Sohal

Shinh, said neither had initially gone into the business on the basis that they were going to commit offences.

Mr Sanjeev Sharma, defending Pardeep Shinh, said he had previously been a man of good character, and in all the time that has elapsed since the offence he has demonstrated that it will not happen again.

Mr John Evans, defending Karmjit Sohal, said there was no evidence of her participating in the sale of clocked cars at either business, and her role was limited to a short duration of a larger scheme.

Judge Mark Eades said not only did the crime affect those victims who bought the cars, but also those who worked in the second-hand car trade legitimately.

"Your involvement in this conspiracy to defraud is serious, and it involved sophisticated fraud. It was done simply so that you could make a profit," he said.

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Exhibits could be displayed elsewhere

WALSALL council chiefs have promised some of the exhibits at a museum under threat of closure will be put on display elsewhere if the shutdown goes ahead.

Walsall Museum exhibits collections such as the Hodson Shop working clothes display, the Bayard Colts ceremonial clubs and has the Changing Face of Walsall gallery.

The venue in Lichfield Street has been earmarked to close to save Walsall Council £70,000 in the next financial year, under draft budget proposals.

It emerged the authority could be forced to pay back lottery funding if the closure goes ahead.

The council received £50,000 towards the refurbishment of the Changing Face of Walsall gallery five years ago.

But a report warns it faces having to pay back some of the money if there are no plans to redisplay collections elsewhere using the equipment bought.

Council bosses insist no firm decision has been made about the closure, but if it were to go ahead, they would look to display some of the items at other venues in Walsall.

Councillor Anthony Harris said: "I must stress the budget savings put forward are only proposals at this stage, so we cannot yet confirm whether Walsall Museum will close."

Jobs hope in campus bid

A PLANNED new £11 million sports and business college campus will help to create job opportunities, a regeneration boss has said.

Walsall College has put forward plans to create the futuristic hub next to its main £64m Wisemore site, in Littleton Street by September 2015.

It will include a business incubation centre to provide support and mentoring for people wanting to launch a firm or enterprise project.

While the sports facilities will include a hall with badminton courts, dance and fitness studios along with a training and injury clinic and spa facilities.

Councillor Adrian Andrew, said: "This centre has the potential to create scores of job opportunities."

Shop deliveries £5,000 to help disaster aid charity



Shop owner Harjit Singh and his wife Navjot Kaur

A FAMILY-RUN shop in Walsall has raised £5,000 for an international relief work charity by donating profits from milk and bread sales.

Harjit Singh and his wife Navjot Kaur, who own the Nisa Local store in Spring Lane, Shelfield, raised the cash for Khalsa Aid over two-and-a-half years.

Mr Singh, aged 41, said he wanted to give to charity to thank customers for their support over the 23 years he has been at the shop.

The shop donated 10p from its profits on a two-litre bottle of milk and the same amount for a loaf of bread to

raise the funds for Khalsa Aid, which launched in 1999 and has provided aid to victims of various disasters including the earthquake in Haiti during 2010.

The father-of-three, who lives on the outskirts of Walsall near Great Barr, said: "My customers have been supporting me over the. We sell a lot of milk and bread.

Close

"I wanted to do something positive with the support."

"Khalsa Aid is close to my heart. It's a Sikh-based charity and I'm a Sikh."

My eldest son, Amritveer, who is 18, will also be going to Haiti in the future to help out.

"He will be unloading lorries and distributing food and water. He will be able to see for himself what happened."

"I'm planning to do more fundraising in the future for local causes too."

Mr Singh also helped to raise money for military charity Help For Heroes by collecting donations from customers in a collection box at his store almost two years ago.

He doubled the amount customers donated and handed the charity a total of £1,200.

Horse-deaths protesters ride into town for demo

UP TO 100 angry demonstrators turned up with 10 horses to protest against Walsall Council after two animals were put down.

They gathered outside Walsall Council House armed with a placard to show their anger following a long-running dispute between a family and the authority.

Officers swooped on playing fields in Warner Road, Coalpool, behind Mack Hall's property and rounded up eight horses and a donkey and took them to a sanctuary after issuing him with a letter giving him instructions to vacate the land.

Two of the horses had to be put down.

But father-of-three Mr Half, 35, said he will fight the council to get his horses back and will stage protests until he receives compensation and an apology.

"I have lived here for 32 years and we have always had horses on the playing fields. Kids from the local area love to come and visit them," he said.

"What the council has done is absolutely shocking and I intend to fight it every step of the way. I had only had the horses for two days before they were shot. The council said they were wild and running down the street but they weren't, they were happy just being in the field."

"I intend to stage up to three protests a week if I have to so that justice is done. I have already set up a petition with hundreds of signatures and many more to come."

"All I want is my horses back and an apology and compensation. The stables that I had bought were completely smashed. They cost £2,500 to build."

A statement from Walsall Council said: "Protesters requested to speak to a member of staff and it was agreed they could meet with a council representative on a date to be arranged."

Mr Mark Cooper, prosecuting, said CCTV footage showed him selling cigarettes but pocketing the cash at the supermarket in Middle Piece Way.

Dhillow admitted theft. In mitigation, for Dhillow, Mr Ian Henery said his character references showed he was a hard-working, family man. He said: "His wife was diagnosed with cancer. She's lost her job. My client has now lost his job."

He was due to be sentenced by magistrates today.



A protestor rears in anger outside Walsall Council House over the confiscation of horse from Coalpool

Teenager stole from friend who put him up

A TEENAGER who stole from the Walsall home of a woman who had given him a bed for the night has been given a suspended custodial sentence.

Ryan Singh Gill, aged 19, had spent the night at a friend's house, only to return later and break into her home, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Mr David Lees, prosecuting, told the court that on August 15, Gill and a friend stayed with the woman and her friend at her home in Jubilee Close.

They spent the evening together, and the following morning they left the property and went to the taxi office together. The householder and her friend got a taxi, while Gill and his friend changed their mind and decided

not to go with them. Mr Lees said: "When she went home she found that a number of items had been taken."

These included a pram, children's clothing, a Moses basket and a television. The court heard she found no signs of a break-in, but when the police forensics found marks around a panel on her PVC kitchen door.

Mr Lees said: "It appears the PVC panel on the door had been forced off. The theft had been carried out and then the panel replaced, as if they were trying to conceal a forced entry."

Mr Lees said police discovered a taxi had been called to the property. He said: "The taxi driver had confirmed a large amount of items were placed into

the boot of the car." Mr Lees said that in interview, Gill said his friend had "persuaded and coerced" him, Gill, of Dibble Close, Walsall pleaded guilty to a burglary and making off without payment.

Mrs Satvir Aujla, defending, said the court the crime was not pre-meditated and he was acting under the influence of someone else. She said: "He has reflected on what has happened and he is full of remorse and regret."

Gill, who had no previous convictions, was sentenced to six months in a young offender's institution suspended for two years. He also ordered him to complete 120 hours of unpaid work and be supervised for 12 months.

NEWS in brief

Garden refuse pick-up stopped

GARDEN waste collections in Walsall will be suspended for five months for a second winter running to save the cash-strapped council £141,000.

In recent years, brown bins in Walsall had gone uncollected for three months, but last year this was extended to five months.

Now council chiefs have announced they will suspend the service for five months again as they face cutting £19 million from next year's budget.

Collections will stop at the end of November until March 31 next year.

Garden rubbish can be taken to the Household Waste Recycling Centres at Fryers Road, Bloxwich, and to Merchants Way, Aldridge.

Toxic tip land for sale again

LAND once used as a toxic waste tip has been put up for sale again almost a decade after plans to build a multi-million pound sports centre were axed due to the recession.

The 30-acre site in between the M6 and Willenhall E-Act Academy, in Bentley Lane, Short Heath, is back on the market. Now the owners have met Walsall Council officials to discuss the way forward.

Representative Eric Avery, of Bentley Lane Land, said: "We had a productive meeting and can report that we are open to have discussions with any potential buyers."

The former tip alongside the M6 northbound was closed for almost 20 years.

90pc of town's young training

ALMOST 90 per cent of young people in Walsall are in training or education, new figures claim.

The statistics from the Department for Education (DfE) cover 16 and 17-year-olds and show an overall total of 89.8 per cent of young people in Walsall are involved in one or the other, compared to 88.3 per cent last year.

Of the 340 young people with learning difficulties or disabilities in Walsall, 85.3 per cent are also involved in education or training.

Councillor Rachel Andrew, said: "We must build on these positive results and continue to work hard to support every young person in Walsall to maximise their potential."

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



I REFERRED recently to the anonymous blogger Enlightenment who, secure in his secrecy, had a right old rant at me. Mr Enlightenment has now set up a Twitter page where, inexplicably, he uses his full name. Hi, Phil!

IT'S November and we are still picking fruit from the fig tree in our garden and have only just re-lit the solid-fuel boiler for the first time since April. If this is global warming, bring it on.

IT IS already passing into legend that the Met Office was dazzlingly successful in predicting Monday's storm. The millions of folk living in central England will disagree. The forecasters repeatedly predicted that the storm would "sweep through the Midlands." It did not. Yet even after the storm had passed, the BBC was still reporting that it had "swept through the Midlands." The BBC version is now on the internet for all eternity. So when your grandchildren ask you about the Great Storm of 2013 and you tell them it missed us by miles, they'll nod sadly and say: "Poor granddad. He's losing it."

BUT then the BBC is hardly in touch with the nation. Last week Auntie Beeb got a ticking-off for relegating the Royal christening to the final item in some bulletins. Even stranger was the lead story on the Radio 4 lunchtime news a few days ago. According to Auntie the biggest news story of the day was the death at 89 of the British sculptor Sir Anthony Caro. The people's broadcaster, eh?

WHAT do you dread most about the enforced companionship on trains? Is it crying babies, mobile-phone shouters, football fans or drunks? Prepare for a new horror. First Great Western has agreed to Hewlett Packard putting "brand ambassadors" on its trains to demonstrate their latest tablet computers to passengers. If a smiley-faced person with a tablet enters your carriage, I can only advise you to put on a football scarf, surround yourself with empty lager cans and start shouting into your mobile.

AFTER my item on smart meters a few days ago, a lady tells me she had one installed, along with a new "state-of-the-art" (i.e. rubbish) boiler. She's not sure which she hates the most, the boiler or the meter. She says: "I've only plugged the smart meter in twice. I don't need a soppo little screen to tell me how to save money and look after the planet. What was wrong with the old meter, with numbers I could read and understand?"

ANOTHER pointless leap forward for technology appears in a Christmas gift catalogue. It's an electronic key tag and fob designed for people who keep losing their keys. Simply fasten the tag to your keyring. If you lose the keys just press the electronic fob and it triggers an alarm on the tag. Brilliant – until you lose the fob.

MEMBERS of a works syndicate in Bedford thought they had won £159,709 each on the National Lottery. Instead, owing to a miscalculation by Camelot, the jackpot worked out at £124,621 each. One member declares: "It has taken away the whole excitement of winning." Yeah. Getting £124,621 must be a real bummer.

FOUR hundred years after it was written, Shakespeare's gore-fest Titus Andronicus, with its storyline of mutilation and cannibalism, still has the power to turn the stomach. The current Royal Shakespeare Company production claimed a couple of victims in a single performance a few days ago. One member of the audience fainted, another projectile-vomited in the stairwell. What a great play.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Gallery revamp aims to attract visitors

THE revamp of Walsall's £21 million New Art Gallery will improve the visitor experience, it has been claimed, as it emerged bosses had started putting together a bid for funding.

Up to £800,000 will be ploughed in to improve the iconic building.

It comes as Walsall Museum, also based in the town centre, is set to close to save £70,000 next year as

part of wider council cuts. Council bosses say the work at the art gallery is 'essential maintenance'.

A bid is being prepared to the Arts Council England for £400,000 to undertake most of the work between now and 2016. Walsall Council will invest around £100,000 and the rest will come from external sources.

Leisure boss Councillor Anthony Harris said: "This work is essential

for the upkeep of the art gallery to ensure the building is maintained and essential systems kept up to date. "The refurbishment of the reception and shop will also improve the customer experience and make a visit to the New Art Gallery more enjoyable.

"We are hopeful that the Arts Council will agree to fund most of this work, on the understanding

that the council invests just over £100,000 over the next three years.

"The gallery attracts visitors from all over the world and this funding will enable it to continue leading the way in terms of arts and culture."

Proposals include revamping the foyer area and installing better lighting. The gallery is seen as a key attraction in drawing visitors to the town

New pub owner has proposals to expand

UP TO 10 jobs could be created under plans to extend a kitchen at a pub and build a convenience store and takeaway next door.

The Fiery Holes pub, in Moxley, was recently taken over by Harjinder Singh Bagri, who bought it in Great Bridge Road from Marston's Brewery.

He has lodged an application with Walsall Council to build a kitchen extension as he intends to retain the pub but place a greater emphasis on serving hot food.

A chef has been employed and the main bar and dining areas in the pub have been redecorated, while the garden and car park have been tidied up.

A report, submitted with a planning application to the authority, said the kitchen at the pub is 'inadequate'.

In the report, planning agent Ron Oliver said: "My client wishes to further improve the premises over the next 12 months, but is at present formulating ideas. This kitchen extension is a priority to make the current business plan work."

He added: "This was a pub that wasn't doing well before. It has been purchased by an owner who wants to expand the restaurant side."

There is also has an application for a convenience store and hot food takeaway and Mr Oliver said he thought it would create eight to 10 jobs in all.

Landlords in gathering on empty homes

AROUND 300 landlords attended a housing conference to discuss the issue of empty properties.

The event at the Banks's Stadium in Walsall, was organised by the West Midlands Making Best Use of Stock housing partnership, which is made-up of seven local authorities – Walsall, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull – and 19 housing associations.

Stephen Gabriel, from Sandwell Council, was one of the organisers.

He said: "Although the majority of homes in the region are either owner-occupied or owned by councils and housing associations, the number of properties owned by private landlords is increasing."

Armed police descended on pub after 'gun' seen

ARMED police descended on a pub in Walsall town centre pub after an 18-year-old was seen with what turned out to be an air pistol, a court heard.

Firearms officers were called to the Starting Gate after Jarad McKenzie had been spotted with the weapon. He was arrested and the air pistol was found to be unloaded and without the necessary gas.

Walsall Magistrates Court was told it had been found in a bush at Walsall Arboretum four days beforehand.

The teenager of Lower North Street, The Butts, admitted possession of an unloaded air weapon in a public place.

Miss Rachel Smith, prosecuting, said an anonymous 999 call was made to police at just after 9.50pm on October 13.

During the call McKenzie was described as having a pistol and waving it around before putting into the waistband of his bottoms.

Found

Firearms officers were called to attend along with uniform officers.

They searched McKenzie but could not find the pistol.

However, with his assistance it was located in the back room of the pub in Newport Street.

Miss Smith said there was no ammunition and when interviewed he said it had been found four days earlier at the arboretum.

McKenzie had then taken

by Craig Hughes

it home. Mr Harpreet Jhawa, defending insisted his client had not been brandishing it around and had been taken to 'show off' to friends.

He said McKenzie, who suffers from ADHD and asperger's, had made a full and frank admission.

"He had been playing football with friends, he states that the football was kicked some distance and he went to fetch it. He collects this ball and finds this air pistol laying on the grounds.

"Somewhat foolishly he has decided to keep it. He puts it under the bed and forgets about it for a few days. He decides he wants to show his friends this article. He refuses he brandishes it to any person."

He added: "He had no intention of causing any alarm or distress to any persons."

Magistrates fined him £75, £85 costs and £20 victim surcharge.

They also ordered for the forfeiture and destruction of the air weapon.

Crisis bed cuts criticised

MOVES to close beds for mental health patients have been criticised by opposition councillors. Walsall Council's £100,000 cost-cutting measure by will see 10 beds at Broadway North Resource Centre shut. It provides crisis beds to adults suffering from illnesses such as clinical depression.

Labour Group Leader and chairman of the social services scrutiny panel, Tim Oliver, said: "Staff, patients and the public rightly believe this is the sort of service we should be protecting not threatening with closure, and that's why Labour has opposed this closure, as our research has failed to provide assurances that thought-out alternative plans are in place for this vulnerable group."

Hair salon given a makeover



Joint owner Emma Parker with staff Daryl Hampton, Sian Austin, Kate Proffitt and Charlotte Jesse at Shepherds Hair and Beauty in Stafford Street, Willenhall

A HAIR salon has been refurbished and unveiled as a new beauty business, creating two jobs. Owners of Shepherds Hair & Beauty, Willenhall, said they hope the new facilities can rival those found in beauty salons elsewhere in the Midlands.

Shepherds opened in Stafford Street in 1935. Ade Rooker bought the salon with his partner Emma Parker five years ago.

He said: "There was nothing in the town like what we have now. We've opened up three new beauty rooms and offer manicures, pedicures and massages.

"We wanted to create somewhere nice for the people of Willenhall – a bit of luxury on their doorstep."

The rooms had been used for beauty treatments years ago but had become 'tatty', Mr Rooker said.

Part of the building was given a total refurbishment, with all fittings and fixtures removed and new furniture installed.

The beauty rooms have a vintage, shabby chic theme.

Mr Rooker, aged 33, added: "We're hoping, if it's a success, to take on even more staff next year. We've spent thousands of pounds on this at a time when some businesses are struggling."

"Our customers have reacted very positively to the new beauty salon."

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Seeking to boost the allotments

COUNCIL chiefs say they are working to improve allotments in Walsall while at the same time chasing further investment.

Around £150,000 is being sought to improve allotments in the borough over the next three years.

Bosses say some work has already been carried out and they are working to create more opportunities for grow your own crops.

Councillor Anthony Harris said: "The draft capital programme for 2014/15 outlines the allotment and community garden service's aims to help regenerate allotment land and identify opportunities to help develop community gardens in Walsall.

"As the council will be unable to fund all requests in the draft capital bid, in the interim period, the service has been working hard to develop sites."

They Darlaston Community Garden, George Rose Community Garden and Alexander Road, Bentley.

Mayor to lead remembrance

THE Mayor of Walsall, councillor Mohammad Nazir, will lead the annual Remembrance Day parade from the Council House to the town's cenotaph on November 10.

Before the parade, the mayor will accompany members of John Henry Carless's family and a representative from the Royal Naval Association to place a wreath on the Carless memorial in Lichfield Street.

Councillor Nazir will return to Walsall Council House for 10.25am where the procession will then make its way to the cenotaph in Bradford Place.

Flasher admits alley exposure

A MAN exposed himself to three people in an alleyway – including an 11-year-old girl – after getting drunk, a court heard.

Liam Wilcox, aged 22, admitted exposure in Great Charles Street, Brownhills, on June 6 when he appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court.

One of the females later saw Wilcox, of Hawthorne Road, Sheffield, outside Costcutter in Ogleway Road and police identified him on the CCTV.

Four care staff suspended during investigation



Rushall Care Home, run by Four Seasons Health Care

FOUR care home workers have been suspended amid an investigation into their conduct and standards.

It comes after concerns were raised by colleagues about the level of care at Rushall Care Home, Lichfield Road, Walsall.

Bosses at Four Seasons, the organisation behind the home, which offers nursing and personal care for up to 34 people, have confirmed the suspensions pending the outcome of the investigations. The home insisted the probe is in line with usual procedures.

A statement released by Four Seasons said: "When members of our care staff raised concerns with the home manager

about the conduct of colleagues, the manager notified the relevant authorities so that the concerns could be appropriately investigated.

"Whilst we await the outcome of the investigations, four members of staff have been suspended in line with our normal procedure whenever a complaint is under investigation and nothing more should be read into this.

"The allegations mainly concern the conduct of these members of staff towards their colleagues and their standards of care provision.

"The wellbeing of the people in our care is our first priority and we have an active whistle-blowing policy that

encourages staff, residents and their families to report any concerns and we always work with the relevant authorities to ensure they are rigorously investigated in a transparent manner.

"It would be inappropriate to comment further ahead of the outcome of the investigation."

Rushall and Shelfield councillor Richard Worrall said: "It is obviously worrying. We have to await the outcome and see whether there is any substance to the allegations." An inspection was carried out by the Care Quality Commission in June and showed the home, also referred to as Rushall Care Centre, was reaching most standards.

Father who 'got stuck in' to football thugs battle jailed



Arron Arrowsmith, aged 34



Michael Edwards, 56



James Ross, 27



Dean Stone, 33



Neil Robinson, 51

A FATHER of four who claimed he was in the wrong place at the wrong time during a battle between Walsall and Shrewsbury football fans, has been jailed.

Shrewsbury Crown court was told that Walsall supporters were 'actively sought out' by a mob of 50 to 60 rival Shrews fans when violent disorder broke out before a match.

During the skirmish a man fell on top of police constable Lee Saunders, breaking his leg, as he tried to restore order during the ugly scenes, which started in front of horrified shoppers in Shrewsbury town centre, the court heard.

The fighting brought traffic to a standstill ahead of the League One game on October 14 last year and cost the public an estimated £60,000.

Arron Arrowsmith of Blakenall, Walsall

by Jennifer Meierhan

claimed he was simply in 'the wrong place at the wrong time' and that he was at the game to celebrate his child's birthday, the court heard.

The ugly skirmish in Shrewsbury town centre left onlookers horrified. Arrowsmith was 'not a football supporter', the court was told, however, the judge ruled that Arrowsmith had still got 'stuck in' and jailed him for nine months.

The 34-year-old, of Harden Road admitted his part in the large-scale brawl which happened before the Shrewsbury Walsall game.

Fellow Walsall man James Ross, 27, of Windrush Close, Pelsall was jailed for eight months – with the court being told he only went to the match to accompany a younger relative. Both he and Arrowsmith were banned from attending football matches for

six years. Michael Edwards, 56, of Roebuck Road, Walsall, was given a 12-month jail term suspended for two years for his role in the fight.

Mark Walters, 28, of Alumwell Road, and Dean Stone, 33, of Burgh Way, both Walsall, were ordered to do 250 hours of unpaid work, given four-year bans and ordered to pay £500 costs after admitting violent disorder.

Arrowsmith, 'was not a football supporter', Mr Andrew Wilkins defending, told Shrewsbury Crown Court.

"He was in the wrong place at the wrong time. He had gone along to celebrate the birth of his fourth child," he said.

But Judge Graham Cliff, sentencing, said: "Another way of looking at it is he got stuck in. He could have walked away."

Arrowsmith also received a six-year ban on attending football matches.

Judge Cliff told Ross: "You embraced the

occasion with gusto." In total 20 men were sentenced – with two Walsall men jailed along with five who were from Shrewsbury.

Neil Robinson, 51, of Stephenson Avenue, Walsall, said he had muscled in to protect a friend who was terminally ill with cancer.

Judge Cliff said: "You have escaped immediate custody by the skin of your teeth."

The judge suspended his 12-month prison sentence for two years.

Speaking at Shrewsbury Crown Court, Judge Graham Cliff said: "It is quite apparent from the CCTV that Walsall supporters were actively sought out by Shrewsbury supporters." He told Walsall defendants: "You were not the instigators of what went on but you certainly responded to the challenge." In total 30 men were arrested during the investigation, which took a year and cost £30,000 which is on top of the £24,000 cost of extra policing and £5,600 prosecution bill, a total of £59,600 of taxpayers' money.

NEWS

in brief

Cricket club nets donation of £4k

NEW netting is to be installed at Bloxwich Cricket Club following a £4,000 donation from Cameron Homes, which has been creating the properties as part of the Kings Court development off Stafford Road.

The money is being put towards boundary netting. The house builder has also provided manpower for essential land clearing works.

Club chairman John Jennings said: "The total cost of the project is £7,800 so we have very much welcomed the kind donation from Cameron Homes, together with their help."

Cameron Homes sales manager Beverley Colman said: "It's a meaningful way to thank the local community for welcoming us to Bloxwich."

Theatre's car park is given new life

A COMMUNITY theatre's car park which was pot-holed and uneven has been resurfaced.

The car park of the Grange Playhouse on Broadway North has now been renovated.

The aim was to improve the venue for theatregoers and ensure the building can continue to be used by the local community safely.

Highways contractor Lafarge Tarmac worked with Walsall Council to carry out the work.

Lafarge Tarmac was contacted by Walsall council to see if it could assist in the overhaul.

A statement from Lafarge Tarmac said, we were delighted to help.

School planning room for students

A SCHOOL has submitted plans for an extension to create a student meeting room. The Streedy Academy, in Queslet Road East, Walsall, is earmarked for the work as part of the proposals.

A single storey extension is planned for students to relax away from study rooms.

A report, submitted with the plans to Walsall Council, reads: "The proposed extension is not envisaged to increase student or staffing levels."

A decision is due soon.

Hospital gym plan

WALSALL Manor Hospital is planning a gym for patients to exercise in. It would be housed in a temporary building next to a ward block at Pleck Road.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

PITY the poor residents of Milton Keynes. Not only do they have to endure some of Britain's most unappealing architecture but the town is now going to be the testbed for an interesting new experiment in transportation.

The £65m scheme, remember that when they say there is no money to open your old railway line, will see self-driving electric cars whizzing around the town at speeds of up to 12mph.

Better than that, their navigation will be controlled by a smartphone app as they run along the pavements. So pedestrians in a busy town centre will in future have to share the footpath with driverless electric cars controlled entirely by mobile phone signals. What could possibly go wrong?

CASHING in on the success of the hit BBC2 period gang drama, enterprising members of the Digbeth Residents Association have started organising Peaky Blinders tours.

No matter that the show was filmed predominantly in Leeds, Liverpool and Dudley. Or that it was set not in Digbeth, but Small Heath. Visitors from as far afield as London, Suffolk and Scotland have been queuing up to spend an hour seeing sights such as the old Typhoo factory, and hear colourful tales about pitched gang battles, turf wars, or folk smoking at Digbeth coach station. Actually, I might have made one of those up, but you get the drift. Still if Digbeth can be turned into a tourist magnet, there's hope for us all.

YET what is really sad, as the Black Country celebrates bonfire night, is that so many people seem to be unaware of the central role this area played in the Gunpowder Plot.

Holbeche House in Wall Heath, just outside Dudley, was the home of Stephen Lytton, one of the conspirators. It was there, after the plot had failed, that the fugitives took refuge. It was at Holbeche House where some of the plotters blew themselves to bits while drying their gunpowder by the fire. As you do.

And it was at Holbeche House where the last few stragglers were rounded up. You might now be thinking 'Really? When can we visit this place?'. Well, sadly, you can't.

Holbeche House is now a nursing home. A very good nursing home, no doubt, and no reasonable person would decry the important work such institutions perform. But if Holbeche House had been in London, would it have ever been converted for such use?

Did it never cross anybody's mind that it should have been turned into a museum? So while coachloads of tourists flock to see the back streets of inner city Birmingham on the basis of a spurious link to a BBC2 drama series, one of the most significant sites of British history is all but forgotten.



Andy Keeling with Liam and his elder sister Hannah



Liam proudly shows off a pumpkin for Halloween

Family touched by support since tragic death of Liam

The death of Liam Keeling aged 13 is still raw for the family. MARION BRENNAN reports on how they cope.

A CHESLYN Hay couple staged an open-house last weekend. But behind the chatter and laughter was a more sombre reason for the gathering.

Guests were there to remember Liam Keeling – son of Andy and Georgina – on the anniversary of his death from meningitis on October 27, 2009.

Only two weeks earlier they had been celebrating his 13th birthday. A star player for Wyrley Juniors FC, he was the fittest he had ever been and had shown no symptoms of the lethal disease.

The youngster, who also played cricket for Penkridge and Bloxwich, had picked up a cold the week before but returned to Cardinal Griffin Catholic High School in Cannock on the Wednesday for a school trip to the Black Country Museum.

Friends

On Thursday he had a sleepover with friends. They played all day and in the evening went to a race night. On Saturday afternoon Liam was sick and developed a headache and temperature but by Tuesday, the symptoms had disappeared.

That day Andy took Liam's sister Hannah and her boyfriend to Waterworld, near Stoke-on-Trent, for a day out.

Andy, a part-time postman, says: "I'd had a chat and a joke with Liam before we left. He was lying on the settee and my wife was on the computer beside him."

"He said he was going to have a nap but never woke up. Georgina called me saying 'You have to come, it's not good.'"

"When I got there the paramedics were with him."

Liam died later that day at Walsall Manor Hospital surrounded by his family. Andy says: "It was such a shock.



Parents Georgina and Andy Keeling with a picture of their son Liam

We didn't know for five days, until the post-mortem, what had killed him."

Liam's post mortem revealed he had been suffering from swine flu which, at some stage, turned to bacterial meningitis. Just two weeks later, Hannah was admitted to the Manor with the same symptoms. But to their relief, her illness turned out to be a viral infection.

After Liam's death, everything changed. Andy gave up his coaching at Wyrley Juniors where he had been

Liam's manager since the under-eights. He also gave away father and son's Walsall FC season tickets.

"I couldn't face it anymore. His death is still very raw but you have to carry on. For the first couple of years it was pretty bad. I didn't have counselling but looking back it would probably have helped."

Two things, in particular, have helped to ease the Keelings' pain. The most immediate medicine came in the form of

a fundraising match between Walsall FC All Stars and Wyrley Juniors in Liam's memory. It raised £6,500 for Meningitis UK and marked the start of an incredible fundraising campaign.

A committee was formed, which still meets every six weeks to organise events. Last month the fund topped £150,000.

The next fundraiser will be at Bloxwich Memorial Club on November 23 when there will be music from Ian James, Ruby Spider and Dave Carnall. Tickets are £7 or £3 for children.

Andy, 53, says: "The time the committee puts in is amazing. We can't thank them enough. Family and friends have all been wonderful."

The family were also moved when their son's old school named its new £800,000 sports pitch The Liam Keeling Arena in his memory.

The Keelings have thrown themselves into the charity work, taking part in sponsored cycling rides and completing a 201-mile walk in Ireland.

As well as boosting funds, they want to raise awareness of the disease and how quickly it can strike.

Birth

"The fundraising is a tribute to Liam and it helps keep his memory alive," says Andy. "A lot of people are doing things for Liam even now, four years later, and that helps us a lot."

The other ray of light has appeared more recently as 19-year-old Hannah has given birth to Laylah, making the Keelings grandparents for the first time.

Andy says: "For the first three or four weeks after Liam died, Hannah slept with us in our bed. She found it terrible."

"But she's gone on to do really well at school and she's now in her second year at Birmingham City University, studying to be a primary school teacher."

"Laylah has given us another focus. It's sad in one way because Liam is not here to see her."

The family have held an open-house every year on Liam's anniversary. "We're very touched that his friends come and still like to remember him," says Andy.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A SAVE the pinta campaign was launched in the Midlands, with Co-operative societies being urged to write to their MP about the threat from imported UHT milk. The Co-operative Union said if imported milk flooded the shops at initially low prices, it could wipe out the doorstep delivery service.

THIS is what you call a dead-end job – a theatre was looking for an actor to play a corpse. Birmingham's Alexandra Theatre was seeking somebody to play the part of the murder victim in Tom Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound*. The candidate would be expected to lie motionless for 70 minutes, and would be paid £4.68 per performance.

A BONFIRE party at a children's home was cancelled because of a strike. The party at Braybrook House Children's Home in Wednesfield was scrapped because members of the Nalco Union were involved in a pay dispute.

1993...

WOLVERHAMPTON had been identified as a possible site for a new factory belonging to German car giant Mercedes-Benz. A 200-acre site next to the M54 at Pendeford was on a shortlist of possible sites for the Stuttgart-based engineering company. Mercedes was looking to build a £700 million factory which would build 200,000 small cars a year.

OUTSPOKEN television doctor Vernon Coleman was banned from late-night debating show *Central Weekend* after a four-letter outburst live on air. Dr Coleman let rip during a debate among medical experts about the anti-depressant Prozac. Initially he branded the drug 'crap' and shouted 'morons' at two guests, but his language became more explicit towards the end of the debate. The shows presenters made an on-air apology but Dr Coleman was unrepentant.

2003...

THE owner of a G-registered Austin Maestro spoke of her shock at receiving a speeding ticket accusing her of driving at 480mph. Joanna James, who paid £100 for the car, was allegedly clocked when she drove along a road in Bridgend, south Wales. Husband Kenneth joked: "I am waiting for Nasa to ring up for the diagram of the engine."

IT WAS the end of the cul-de-sac for Liverpool soap opera Brookside, which drew to a close after 21 years. The drama, one of the first programmes to be shown on the new Channel 4 at its launch, welcomed back original cast member Paul Usher as bad-boy Barry Grant, for the final instalment.

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LETTERS

Baffling rage over women wearing 'the veil'

PA JORDAN (letters, October 10) manages to cram a great deal of nonsense into very little space

As an Anglican layman and a retired university lecturer I am baffled by Jordan's rage about Muslim women wearing what he or she calls 'the veil'.

Without any specialist knowledge of Muslim theology, I am unable to assess to what extent a devout Muslim woman is, or is not obliged to follow the recently popular practice of wearing a hijab in general and the niqab in particular.

I leave to the Taliban and Saudi

Arabia the nasty practice of dictating to Muslim women what they should or should not wear.

Jordan refers to 'rules and laws being changed'. No laws have been changed. The only rule that was changed was the attempted introduction of a ban in the Birmingham college, opposed by the students' union and the union representing lecturers.

As an ageing male lecturer, I was rather less perturbed by a Muslim woman's niqab than by the knickers of her less devout micro-skirted co-religionist displayed during an exam I was

invigilating. If students have come here from a country in which Islam is the main religion, they are foreign students, paying full fees. Higher education is one of Britain's most successful invisible exports, but students have a choice.

A Pakistani or Egyptian student considering postgraduate study at Warwick or Birmingham can easily take her brain, the hijab-wearing head containing it and her substantial fees to Harvard, Heidelberg or Sydney.

A HARRISON
Walsall

Huge cost of Plebgate police saga

HOW much longer are we to endure the Andrew Mitchell fiasco?

The man has openly admitted that he did swear at police on the night he was asked not to use an exit in Downing Street and subsequently lost his job in the Government, and the police officers - suspended from their duties for bringing it to the public's knowledge.

Now, months after the incident it is still rolling on at a huge amount of cost to the taxpayer with yet another enquiry is to be opened. Couldn't this money be better spent on something more important like keeping another couple of A&E departments open this winter?

Or is it because a Tory lost his job for doing something wrong and he is fighting to regain a cushy job back in the Cabinet and not having to rub shoulders with that motley crew on the back benches?

TOM DAVIS
Hobley St, Willenhall

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Congratulations to those on challenge

I WOULD like to congratulate all those who entered and completed the Aldridge poppy appeal run and walk on Saturday, October 26. My wife and I participated and enjoyed the challenge. We were astounded by the number of people who turned up to support and raise money for the Royal British Legion.

I'd also like to thank all those involved in organising the event, a lot of hard work went into planning and running the day. It was nice to see several Aldridge-based groups working together in aid of a great cause.

COUNCILLOR TIM WILSON
Walsall Road, Aldridge

Council's wrong priorities

CONSIDERING the cuts that Walsall Council is proposing to make or increase the council tax it seems to be set to spend an awful lot of money on improving the town centre.

Now I read that it is intending to plough money into revamping the art gallery whilst preparing to close the museum and make other cuts. How about reducing the rent and rates on empty shops? Perhaps this would encourage businesses to come in. Walsall has become a centre for charity shops and money lenders.

IAN HUNTER, Willenhall

Centro cuts are similar to Beeching

THE forthcoming cuts to Centro's budget, which will slash our subsidised bus routes and decimate local 'Ring and Ride' services for people with disabilities across Walsall, will be a modern-day version of the Beeching cuts.

If you support local bus services, be prepared to make your voices heard to protect them across Walsall and the Black Country.

We will need to protest long and hard to save our bus services.

Imagine your community without subsidised bus services or Ring and Ride.

We are nearing a cut in services that will resemble the train chaos of the Beeching 'axe' in the 1960s.

If you want to protect local bus services please contact Councillor Doug James, C/o Walsall Council, Walsall.

It is time to organise and protect our local bus services before it is too late.

DOUG JAMES
Walsall Council

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NEWS

World Cup boost to be sound as a Poundland

by Simon Penfold

AS POUNDLAND braces itself for its busiest-ever Christmas, boss Jim McCarthy is already looking ahead to next summer and the World Cup in Brazil.

Watching England's recent qualification match with the 2-0 victory over Poland the 57-year-old retail veteran was immediately thinking about the new lines he wants to be selling in his stores when the global football festival kicks-off next June.

"I realised we need to be ordering flags, bunting, a whole range of products. It takes months to get these from the manufacturers into our shops, so we need to start now," he said.

It is that eye for the next big opportunity that has helped make Poundland the most successful single-price store chain on the UK high street. It has just revealed that it made £23.1 million profit on sales of £880m in its last financial year as it opened another 69 stores and created 1,700 jobs.

Launched

Mr McCarthy is now preparing to take Poundland into Europe, where it will trade using the Dealz brand it launched in the Irish Republic two years ago.

As a result, the Poundland chief executive is spending a lot of time travelling around Europe casting his eye over potential new markets.

In the meantime, Poundland is about to reveal how many temporary workers it will need to recruit this Christmas - Mr McCarthy estimates it will be between 1,500 and 2,000.

The huge success of Poundland since he took over in 2006 has seen it grow from 148 stores to 493 today in the UK



Opportunity - Jim McCarthy, chief executive of Poundland, based in Willenhall

and Ireland. A 40-year veteran of the retail business, Mr McCarthy's first full-time job was as a trainee at 17 with Dillons, the former Midlands newsagents chain, but he started out delivering newspapers in Birmingham as a 12-year-old.

He became righthand man to Wolverhampton tycoon Kevin Threlfall as he built the T&S convenience stores group until its £530m takeover by Tesco in 2002. He then ran Sainsbury's convenience stores arm until a series of family tragedies led to a major career shift.

His wife Rosie lost her mother, and a favourite nephew died of a heart attack just minutes before the funeral. At the same time his own parents had been ill.

"For the first time I made the deci-

sion to put my family first," he recalls. "I hadn't realised how much pressure Rosie was under. I decided I needed to stop working in London and find a job in the Midlands."

By chance, the top job at Poundland had become vacant. "It was a case of 'Lucky Jim'," he grins.

Seven years later he is still full of enthusiasm for the job, and the company: "It's a terrific business in the good times, and it's still a very good business in bad times."

Meanwhile, away from work, there's still no slowing down for Mr McCarthy.

He spends most weekends watching his youngest son Sean playing professional rugby, as well as spending time with Rosie - the couple celebrate their ruby wedding next year.



Community spirit right in the heart of Dudley....

Local business Plumbzone have kindly sponsored the Netherton Colts an under 11's football team.

Their sponsorship has enabled the team to purchase essential kit and equipment.

Team Manager of the Netherton Colts, Simon Lane expressed his gratitude to Arshad Mohamed, the Managing Director of Plumbzone and said that it is businesses like Plumbzone that help keep the grass roots of football going.

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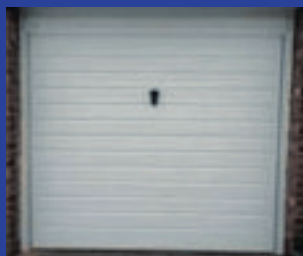
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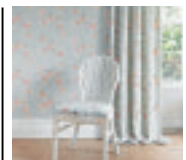
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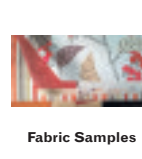
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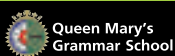
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NEWS

£200k of improvements planned for arts centre

AROUND £200,000 is to be invested in the refurbishment of a popular centre in Walsall under new proposals.

The Forest Arts Centre will receive the improvements under plans which have been drawn up by Walsall Council.

Bosses say it will help make it a multi-purpose arts space and has been earmarked for work to be carried out in the next financial year.

Council leader Mike Bird has welcomed the news. He said: "I went round the Forest Centre before the investment was announced and I saw the amount of work the staff there do."

"This is a significant amount of money and it will allow more income to be generated for the centre. It is a great idea and fantastic news. I hope everyone will be just as enthusiastic as I am in welcoming this investment."

Draft

The centre in Hawbush Road, Leamore, has a range of facilities including two auditoriums, dance studio, community cinema and recording studio.

There is also a digital arts suite, sound-proofed rehearsal rooms, arts classrooms and conference suites.

The investment has been highlighted as part of the council's draft capital programme in the year 2014/15.

A report to the council states: "The sports hall is the only area of the Forest Arts site that has not been refurbished."

"Renovation of this space would complete the last phase of the Forest Arts site making it ideal as a multi-purpose arts space and potential partnership development of a creative and performance skills facility, and would strengthen any future bid by Walsall to become a Black Country 'Super Hub' for music and arts education. Work



The Forest Arts Centre, which is set to get £200,000 refurbishment

would include roofing and balcony works, walls, insulation and cladding works and electrical flooring and decorating works."

It comes despite the council having to make savings of £19 million in the next financial year and £100m over five years.

Bosses say they are still looking to secure funding for improvement programmes across the borough.

Up to £270,000 is being earmarked for the Walsall Arboretum extension.

The Grange car park at the site will be resurfaced and footpath link towards the core of the site spruced up, as part of the scheme over the next two years.

A total of £7.5m is already being

spent on restoring and transforming the historic park under a main project which has been under way over the last few years.

The new project is being lined up as part of the council's capital programme, with £170,000 due to be spent on the project in 2014/15.

The rest of the project will be carried out with match funding.

There are also moves to create a country park in place of the former Grange golf course.

The borough's only municipal golf course was shut in January 2010 after losing £36,000 a year. Thousands of trees are being planted to create the 17 hectare woodland to attract more visitors.

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NEWS



Walsall Council chief executive Paul Sheehan, assistant director of children's services Sue Butcher and apprentice support worker Kimberley Hull at the launch of the new programme at Walsall College which aims to help young people leaving care

Initiative to help young leaving care is launched

THE support which is available for young people leaving care is being highlighted during a new national programme.

New Belongings has been launched by the Government and Walsall is taking part in the initiative.

The project has been devised by the Care Leavers' Foundation with a group working closely with the Department for Education. The foundation is an independent charity which supports young adult care leavers - many of whom are at risk of unemployment, poverty, homelessness, mental health issues and drug and alcohol misuse.

Walsall is one of nine local authorities taking part in the 12-month pilot project.

The aim is to encourage businesses, voluntary groups, statutory bodies and others

to think about how they might be able to support care leavers. This could include offering housing support, discount in a shop, health advice or apprenticeships.

Councillor Rachel Andrew, portfolio holder for children's services at Walsall Council, said: "Care leavers have had to face many challenges in their young lives, but they are a resilient and determined group of people."

Value

"Despite these challenges care leavers should be entitled to the same opportunities to succeed as all other children."

"They value the same things and this work is designed to help them access additional support and opportunities."

For details, call Carol Boughton at Walsall Children's Services on 01922 655848.

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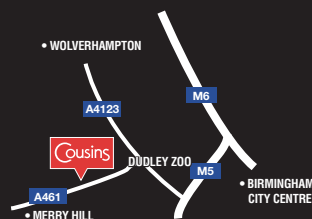
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The budget proposals put forward by cabinet members for public consultation on 23 October 2013 are now available to view here: www.walsall.gov.uk/budgethaveyoursay

Staff from Walsall Council will be consulting with the public throughout the borough up until 14 November 2013.

If you'd like to discuss the proposals face to face with the council you'll find us at the following venues over the next week. All dates and venues can be found on the website or by calling the budget hotline on 01922 653644.

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Tuesday 12 November

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Darlaston Swimming Pool 4-6pm

Wednesday 13 November

Moxley People's Centre Over 55s Club 10am-12pm
Asda Darlaston 5-7pm
Aldridge Community Centre 5.30-7.30pm

Thursday 14 November

Brownhills Library 2-4pm

NEWS

Dan doesn't fare too well on the buses test

by Daniel Wainwright

THE poor little cone never stood a chance. Dragged along by the back wheels of my bus, its little orange existence was wiped out within minutes of me trying out life as a bus driver.

And given I was going through a chicane at less than 10mph at the time I could only imagine the damage I could do if I was allowed out on to the main road.

Bosses at National Express West Midlands invited me over to their training centre in Walsall to show that driving a bus nowadays is a very different profession to the time of Stan, Jack and Blakey of *On The Buses* fame.

Just over 1,000 people have been taken on by the company in the last year as part of a three-year drive to take on 1,700 recruits.

Understanding

But before I am even allowed anywhere near one of the 22 training vehicles – basically older buses with an extra seat and a spare footbrake for the instructor – I have to take the written tests.

These include some maths to make sure I can ask customers for the correct fare and an understanding of the Highway Code. Embarrassingly, I get three out of the first eight on the page of traffic signs wrong, despite the multiple choice answers.

I also fail a question on braking distances in icy weather.

Thankfully though, Mark Simcox, head of training and driver recruitment, tells me I'm not being shown the door. "When applicants come in for the presentation they are pre-warned



Reporter Dan Wainwright learning to drive a bus at Walsall bus training centre

about the test," he says. "Some people do think that because they can drive a car they will do all right."

Mark also says that the 4,000 or so drivers the company employs have to be much more savvy with new technology than their forebears.

"They effectively have to be computer analysts and administrators – and that's just to deal with the modern ticket machines," he says. "They also have to conduct 60 separate checks before they take the vehicle out."

I'm taken around a track, with cones in my way, by trainer Adrian Alcock.

The bus is an automatic so it starts to edge forward as soon as I take my foot off the brake. Driving at 5mph feels like we are going at 55mph.

All I have to do at first is a 'controlled' stop by a traffic cone. It's essentially a more polite way of saying

emergency stop but Adrian, aged 49, reminds me that I have to do it as though I have a few dozen pensioners, children and other passengers sitting and standing behind me and not wearing any seatbelts.

I thought it went reasonably well until Adrian tells me that I've clipped the cone and knocked it over.

The next task is to get around a chicane of cones. It is here that I end up dragging the poor defenceless lump of plastic along with me.

I end up with a score of 525 out of a possible 1,000. A perfect score would be zero. Mark kindly suggests the company would carry on with my training – but in the yard rather than out on the road where I could do any damage.

So, the traffic cones of the West Midlands are safe – for now.

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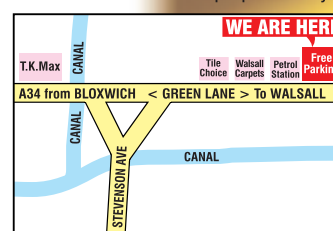


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NEWS

Hurt puppy dragged along street court told

A PUPPY that was dragged along a street in Walsall and found with injuries to its face and covered in blood, a court heard.

Members of the public called police after the nine-week old American bull dog-type animal was heard whimpering and had a chain wrapped around its neck. Abdul Khadir was said to be intoxicated when officers went to Prince Street.

He was taken to Bloxwich police station where he was then found with a small quantity of cannabis.

Mrs Jenny Winzor, prosecuting at Walsall Magistrates Court last week, said police received two separate calls about the dog had a chain wrapped around its neck and could be heard whimpering in pain.

Police arrived at around 5.40pm on August 18 and could see blood coming from the dog's jaw and fur. Its paws were also bleeding.

It was taken to a vet, who confirmed there was swelling and abrasions to the facial area.

Mrs Winzor said: "The puppy was very subdued, lethargic and tired." It has been taken into specialist care. Khadir admitted to police he had drunk a considerable amount of alcohol and having the cannabis.

Khadir, of Pleck Road, Pleck, had admitted causing unnecessary suffering to a protected animal and the case was adjourned for the pre-sentence reports.

For possession of the Class B drug he was given a £75 fine, ordered to pay a £20 victim surcharge with forfeiture and destruction of the cannabis ordered.

Mr David Nash, defending, said there had only been a small amount of cannabis for personal use.

The prosecution will seek a deprivation order and a ban on keeping animals.

The hearing was adjourned until November 19 and Khadir was granted unconditional bail.

by Craig Hughes

Wendy gets a taste for success with care award



Wendy Woods and her husband Jason seen at the awards

THE head cook at a care home in Walsall has picked up a major award in nutrition during a gala dinner.

Wendy Woods who has worked at HC-One Woodcross Care Home for 10 years walked away with the nutrition and hydration award at the Great East Midlands Care Awards 2013 which took place on Friday October 18 at the Belfry Hotel in Nottingham.

Wendy was a care assistant before moving into the kitchen and as head cook has smoothly introduced HC-One's new menus, while also being inventive and always making sure that there is a wide variety of options available for residents.

Woodcross manager, Jason Woods, said: "We at Woodcross are absolutely delighted that Wendy won the award. She truly deserves this recognition for the outstanding level of work she provides to our residents."

HC-One regional managing director, Pam Finnis, said: "Everyone at HC-One is very pleased that Wendy won the nutrition and hydration award. Her work at Woodcross is a shining example of the level of care that HC-One carers provide. Congratulations!"

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NEWS

Dinner lady Hazel says farewell to old school



Hazel Richards looks on as the school is knocked down



The new school is built just a few hundred yards away



Diggers move in to demolish the old school buildings

VETERAN dinner lady Hazel Richards always said they would have to knock down her beloved Darlaston Comprehensive before she left.

And now that has proved to be the case after bulldozers moved in to flatten the site after a multi-million pound replacement building was opened.

And thankfully the 62-year-old, who has clocked up 28 years, is still plying her trade during the pupils' lunch hour at the new Darlaston Grace Academy which has opened few hundred yards

away in Herberts Park Road. Mrs Richards worked at Moxley Infant School for six years before starting at Darlaston Comprehensive in 1985.

She was the longest-serving member of staff at the comprehensive and has seen many staff and a generation of pupils pass through the school which later became a science college.

Great

In total, she has been a school dinner lady for more than 34 years.

She said: "I love my job - it is an absolute joy. The teachers are great and I love children and have always wanted to work with them."

"It is sad to see the old building

demolished and it did make me cry." Mrs Richards plans to work another two years at the academy before retiring.

Grace Academy opened its doors in September with 60 classrooms catering for 1,500 pupils.

The Grace Academy replaced the former Darlaston Community Science College in 2009 and rebuild plans were announced soon after.

Schools have been a major theme in Mrs Richards's life - she even got married to her husband William in one.

They were the first couple to tie the knot in St Martin's Church of England Primary School, Bilston, in 1975.

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NEWS

Mitchell spells out case to give international aid

FORMER cabinet member Andrew Mitchell MP has been making the case for international aid on a visit to Willenhall.

Currently British taxpayers fund international development to the value of 0.7 per cent of the whole of the country's GDP.

With increasing pressure on personal and national budgets, the former International Development Secretary and Chief Whip was invited to the town to explain why he feels international aid is necessary.

He fielded questions from those who were sceptical and supportive during the meeting on Friday night at Willenhall Community Hub, Gomer Street, after an invitation from prospective Walsall North Conservative Parliamentary candidate Douglas Hansen-Luke.

Mr Mitchell said: "The British international development budget contributes directly to our own security and prosperity - it's not just aid from Britain, it's aid for Britain."

Promised

"Britain's security is not only maintained by our brilliant armed forces, it's also secured by training the police in Afghanistan, or building government structures in the Middle East."

"Those things make Britain more secure and stable and are funded from international development."

MP for Sutton Coldfield Mr Mitchell, who resigned from cabinet last year after the 'Pledge' affair, said that 0.7 per cent of GDP was fair because it is what has been promised by the country.

He added: "I'm incredibly proud to



MP Andrew Mitchell makes his case about aid in Willenhall with Alexander Woolcombe, left, from the Conservative Friends of International Development, and prospective parliamentary Tory candidate Doug Ian Hansen

serve for a government that gives that to the poorest people in the world.

"The level is right, and we've got to make sure every single day the money is well spent so we can look the British taxpayer in the eye, and reassure them that for every hard earned pound we are getting 100 pence of value on the ground."

He said the key to public support was ensure that the taxpayer knows the money is well spent, as he said

Britain's generosity to international development is displayed every year in the amount it gives to Comic Relief.

Mr Hansen-Luke told the meeting that Britain is the only G8 country to meet the target of 0.7 per cent of its GDP being spent on international development, and credited Mr Mitchell with helping to bring that about.

The MP will be speaking at similar meetings with the Conservative Friends of International Development.

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NEWS

Shoe shop theft admitted

A MOTHER was caught stealing from a shoe shop, after her third conviction this year. Althia Hylton admitted the theft of items costing £67.92 from Deichmann in Park Street, Walsall. Hylton, 41, of Ablewell Street, Walsall, was already on a community order. She was sentenced to a six-week jail term, suspended for a year, and hit with a £165 bill at Walsall Magistrates Court.

Artistic direction for £83k towpath move



STREET art will form part of a £83,000 scheme to guide visitors around a canal towpath. The artwork will be built into the footpath near the 'Town Wharf' in Walsall which is popular route for residents and visitors heading between the town and Walsall Manor Hospital.

Slogans such as 'Off to the Manor we go', and 'Off to the town we go' will help direct pedestrians along the Walsall Canal. The project is being paid for by developers who have invested in various sites around Wolverhampton Street as part of a multi-million pound major regeneration of the town. The path links the hospital, the Waterfront development, Walsall College and Tesco.

Work is due to be completed within weeks. In the meantime the towpath will be closed to pedestrians with diversions set up via Marsh Lane and Upper Navigation Street near Walsall New Art Gallery before re-joining the towpath.

Councillor Adrian Andrew, portfolio holder for regeneration and transport said: "There has been a lot of investment in the town centre in recent years.

"This scheme is being funded by means of that investment and is a good way to connect these new developments with the heart of the town and make it easier for pedestrians to move around the town."

MP's joy as work starts to block up underpass

AN MP has welcomed news that work has started to block up a Willenhall subway which was repeatedly targeted by vandals, as part of a £150,000 project.

The underpass beneath the busy Willenhall Road in Portobello is being replaced with a pedestrian crossing in work being carried out by Wolverhampton City Council.

The campaign had been spearheaded by pensioner Tom Larkin who said that the subway was in an appalling state after yobs targeted the site covering the walls in graffiti, removing handrails, and breaking fixtures and fittings.

Wolverhampton South East MP Pat McFadden backed the campaign for the work to be carried out. He said: "Every time the council has tried to clean it up, it has been targeted again."

"They just couldn't keep up with the vandals. The work to block it off, is all down to the hard work of the residents. The campaign has been led by Mr Larkin who has pushed for this work to be done. He has proved that people power does work."

Vandals have continually targeted the site, covering the walls in graffiti and removing handrails. It has

been a problem for years but the issue was made worst last winter when the light fittings were broken, leaving the subway in total darkness at night.

Now workers have arrived at the site and erected barriers after residents called for the problem to be addressed.

Mr Larkin, who has lived in the area for 40 years, said: "It has been an eyesore for the people of Portobello for far too long and people will be really pleased to see the back of it."

"It is really in an appalling state, with all the graffiti."

"This is the people getting together and deciding, 'We are going to get something done.' It is amazing what people can achieve when they get together."

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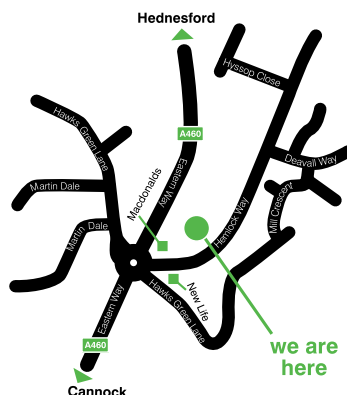
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NEWS

Firefighters win award for safety

WEST Midlands Fire Service has won a national award for a system that helps firefighters to assess their personal safety at incidents. Injuries at incidents fell from 51 in 2011/12 to 23 in 2012/13.

In light of the drop, the brigade's STAR model has been named as the Best Health and Safety Achievement in Public Services at the Safety and Health Practitioner, Institution of Occupational Safety and Health Awards. Judges praised the research and planning that had gone into STAR, providing firefighters with a framework within which to work. The system masks firefighters to 'Stop, Think, Act, and Review' when faced with new or unexpected hazards and when working without direct supervision.

Phil Hales, assistant chief fire officer of the West Midlands, said: "Our firefighters' safety is paramount. This system is a great example of frontline and health and safety staff working closely together."

Councillor John Edwards, chairman of West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority, added: "The STAR safety model was developed to keep our firefighters safe at incidents, but it can be applied across a range of hazardous occupations."

The Marmite effect of £5m building you love or hate



It's a love-hate thing - the StorageBase warehouse off the M6 junction nine

DESPITE looking like a colour-limited life-sized Rub-ik's Cube that can be seen for miles around, a developer insists that this controversial landmark is helping to put the area back on the map.

The building has polarised opinion from residents and businessman in the area, as the StorageBase warehouse off Junction nine of the M6 in Wednesbury, is either loved or hated.

Work on it began last November and once completed it will contain around 1,000 self-storage rooms.

Opus Land Development, the company behind the construction of the 112,000 sq ft warehouse, has already completed the exterior and is currently fitting the interior and beginning work on landscaping the site.

Richard Smith, managing director for Opus Land, said: "The building is in a position where it is passed by thousands of motorists a day and really put's the area back on the map."

"I was on site the other day and I think the building looks brilliant."

Busy

However, it has been heavily criticised by local residents and councillors who described the red, white and grey building as a 'monstrosity'.

They also raised concerns about the warehouse's long opening times and proximity to the already busy motorway junction.

"There is always going to be some people who don't like when a building like this is constructed," said Mr Smith. "But I've spoken to

by Tom Mason

people walking past the site and I have had a number of them say how much they like it. Not only that but it also shields homes from the sound of the M6 and blocks their view of the motorway."

The development will create six jobs, and will be available to be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Mr Smith added: "There is a real demand for buildings like this from small businesses that need additional space to help their business expand."

"This isn't only going to create jobs at the centre - it potentially has the chance to create a much larger economic impact for the area."

The building was granted planning permission by Sandwell Council's planning committee in September last year, despite a petition against it.

Opus Land is also working with St Francis Group on the neighbouring 22-acre Opus Blueprint site that is expected to create up to 500 jobs and is also in early talks with Sandwell Council to develop an area of land off Kelvin Way in West Bromwich.

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NEWS

Titanic year for Len as he sails on past 102



Getting ready for a slice of cake and a glass of whisky is Len Jarvis, who is celebrating his 102nd birthday

ON THE year he was born in 1911, ocean liner RMS Titanic was launched in Belfast, England celebrated the coronation of King George V and Parliament was stormed by the Suffragettes.

Now Len Jarvis has celebrated his 102nd birthday – and he received a bottle of whisky to enjoy the celebrations.

Mr Jarvis, who trained as a teacher at Winchester College before going on to be a headmaster in his illustrious career, marked the milestone with an afternoon party at Gorway House in

Highgate, Walsall, where he lives.

He received a card from the Queen, a chocolate cake and the whisky for his birthday at the weekend.

Mr Jarvis started his career in 1932 but the outbreak of the Second World War saw him called up for military service. He served as a technical instructor in radar with the 107th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment.

After 1945 he returned to civilian life and teaching, eventually becoming a headmaster.

He retired in 1974. He has been

married twice, first to Maude with whom he had two sons Christopher and Peter, and later to Doris.

Clare Buller, supervisor at Gorway House, said: "Len is the oldest resident in the home and the only one over 100. To get to 102 is really impressive, there are not many people who live as long as he has."

"He has been a resident with us for two years, joining just before his 100th birthday in 2011. As far as we can remember he is the oldest resident we have had at the home."

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Pupils rise to charity task

STUDENTS enjoyed the sweet taste of success when they raised more than £1,500 for three charities with a bake-off.

Pupils at Aldridge School, Tynings Lane, also took part in sponsored silences and raffles and a multi day to raise £1,660 as part of a charity week.

The event was organised by the school council. Pupils spend a few weeks each year raising money for their chosen charities, which this year are Acorns Hospice, Malawi Build A School project and Save the Children.

Headteacher David Mountney said: "We encourage all our pupils to think about others and we are delighted that the school council has organised four dedicated charity weeks."

Women smash target for cash

A GROUP of women smashed their fundraising target when they took part in a starlight walk in aid of a hospice.

Seven members of the Aldridge Tangent Club, which is a social networking organisation for the over 45s, took part in the second-ever Starlight Walk fundraiser in Aldridge in aid of St Giles Walsall Hospice.

They raised £1,287, beating the £810 they had raised at the event in 2012. It involved taking part in a 7.5-mile night-time walk around Aldridge.

Helen Relihan, head of fundraising for the hospice, said: "To raise more than £1,200 is a fabulous effort."

Silver lining after putting in a blooming good effort

ALDRIDGE has been recognised with a silver rating in the national Britain in Bloom competition. It was competing against 10 other finalists from across the country including Scotland and Wales.

by Charlotte Lilley

It was selected to represent the Heart of England region in this year's competition after impressing judges.

Aldridge was entered into the national finals and scooped a silver rating.

Regeneration chief, Councillor Adrian Andrew, said: "The Britain in Bloom competition has played a big part in helping us showcase our district centres and make people proud of where they live."

"It was a great honour for Aldridge to be chosen to represent the Heart of England in the national finals and to come away with a silver is a superb achievement."

"As always, I would like to pay tribute to everyone who was involved, including community groups and volunteers. All the awards are a real credit to the hard work everyone puts in."

Projects include the

installation of the Ellie Simmonds sculpture and the makeover of Subway Gardens in High Street.

More than 50 flower displays have been created and hanging baskets and planters have been placed in and around the shopping centre.

The Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Mohammad Nazir, added: "I had the pleasure of meeting some of the volunteers who were involved in Aldridge in Bloom and saw at first hand the months of hard work which goes into getting the village looking so fantastic."

"To get a gold award in the Heart of England in Bloom awards and then a silver from the national judges is a tremendous achievement and I was delighted to be a part of the group who accepted the award from the national Britain in Bloom judges."

Cyclists head out for castle

A CYCLE ride from Aldridge to Tamworth will be held on Sunday. Cyclists will leave from the TSB Bank, Anchor Road, at 9.30am for Tamworth Castle for coffee then ride to Alvecone Canal Marina for lunch. Details on 07400 329709

Calendar launched to raise funds



Liz Hall, Councillor Mohammed Nazir and John Lynch with the calendar

A FUNDRAISING calendar featuring more than 100 photos that display the best features of Aldridge has been launched in a bid to raise money for a specialist blood pressure monitor.

The 2014 calendar was launched by the Portland Patient Participation Group at Anchor Meadow Health Centre in Aldridge.

The group is attached to the Portland Medical Practice at the health centre.

The calendar aims to raise funds for a specialist blood pressure monitor for patients to use in the waiting area and will help to reduce white coat syndrome.

Patients with the condition exhibit higher blood pressure in a clinical setting but not in other settings.

Walsall Mayor, Councillor Mohammad Nazir helped launch the calendar at the event also attended by co-ordinator of the Portland Patient Participation Group Liz Hall.

John Lynch, director of photography at Walsall-based Event Gallery Ltd, helped to compile and design the calendar, providing his services free.

Calendars cost £5 and are available from Simply Delicious, in High Street, Aldridge, Aldridge Library, and The Flower Orchard.

Gift fair to help bring in money

A CHARITY Christmas gift fair is being held on November 17 at the Compass Suites, The Green, Aldridge, for the Aldridge-based charity Rosie's Helping Hands.

As well as stalls there will be music, a playgroup and Father Christmas.

Charity founder Karen Ross said: "We are delighted so many local crafters and sellers will be bringing their beautiful creations."

She added: "Whilst adults browse stalls accompanied by saxophonist Samantha-Jayne and DJ Simon Moore, St Thomas's Playgroup will provide children with the opportunity to make Christmas decorations and cards, or hastily write their Christmas wish list before having their photograph taken with Father Christmas in his Grotto."

Light refreshments will be on sale, including home-made cakes, at the fair which runs from 11am until 4pm. Admission is £1 for adults.

The charity was set up by Karen and Sean Ross, parents of Rosie, who was fatally stabbed 12 years ago.

Parking plans

RESIDENTS will be able to have their say on Walsall Council's parking proposals in Aldridge. Grass verges will be converted into parking spaces in a handful of streets in Aldridge, Streetly, Pheasey and Walsall Wood. People can find out more at Aldridge Community Centre, Anchor Meadow, between 5.30pm and 7.30pm on November 13.

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NEWS

Walking leaders sought

KEEN walkers are being urged to become volunteer leaders in Walsall. The Walk On programme is looking to add to its team of leaders for its weekly programme. Once trained, volunteers will be able to act as walk leader or back marker on any of the sessions or set up their own walk.

Run by Walsall Council's sport and leisure team, the walks are designed to meet the needs of a wide variety of people, including those with limited mobility. The next training day is at Darlaston Town Hall today (Thursday) from 9.30am to 4pm. Call 01922 658080.

Second volume of tales by ghost writer



Anita Bates with her new book, *Ghosts Around Pelsall 2*

AN AUTHOR has penned her second book about ghostly sightings at pubs, schools, homes and streets in Pelsall.

Mother-of-two Anita Bates has written *Ghosts Around Pelsall 2*. The 40-year-old, of Mill Road, said: "I've interviewed loads of people. I'm beginning to think we are the most haunted village in England."

The book, priced at £6.50, is available from Balloons in Pelsall High Street and will be available at Waterstones in Park Street, Walsall, from next week. Mrs Bates is considering writing a book about ghosts around Walsall and would like people to get in touch. Anyone interested can email backinthehay@virginmedia.com

School site lorry park plan given green light

VACANT land which was once the site of a Walsall infants school is set to become a lorry park, allowing a haulage firm to expand and create new jobs.

Walsall Council has granted permission for ASD Transport to use the site in Moxley Road to keep 11 lorries and have 14 parking spaces for motor vehicles.

The applicants say it will increase space to store the number of heavy goods vehicles it needs to expand and create up to 10 jobs.

Members of Walsall Council's planning committee agreed with the recommendations of officers and approved the proposals.

It includes a temporary office as part of 24-hour security and the site will be used to prepare lorries with washing and safety checks.

The business will operate from Monday to Friday between 7am to 7pm and 8am to 1pm on a Saturday. No objections were lodged against the plans.

In his report to councillors, head of planning David Elsworth said: "The re-use of this vacant site is considered to be in a convenient location close to the Black Country New Road which gives direct access onto the motorways and the surrounding Midlands."

by Craig Hughes

The proposed hours of operation for this site are considered to be acceptable and in line with hours that residents would normally expect a reasonable level of quietness and amenity allowing for the character of the area.

"It will ensure that any impact in terms of noise disturbance to adjacent neighbours will be kept to a minimum."

In an initial report to the council, planning agent for the applicants David Barnes said: "The proposed development is for the re-use of this site within the urban area as a location for the applicant to park lorries related to a business already based at Bagnall Street, Tipton, which provides parking to seven lorries and five job opportunities for the community."

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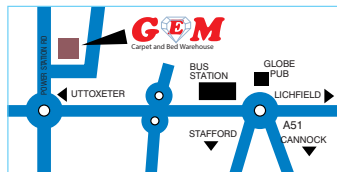


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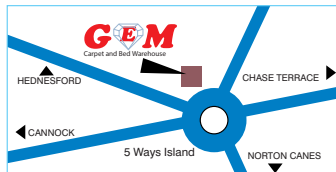
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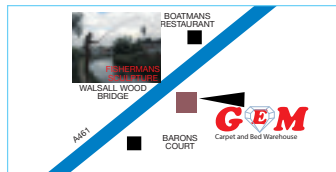
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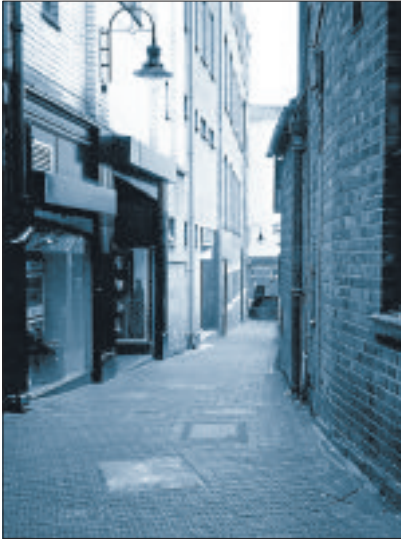
Beatties' impressive Victoria Street, formerly Cock Street, frontage from the 1930s



A view of the fold from the early 1900s



Washing being dried at Giffard Arms Yard in Townwell Fold from the early part of the last century



Townwell Fold seen in more modern times during 2000

Beating a path to Beatties' first shop at Townwell Fold

WOLVERHAMPTON: "Where they have but four weak springs to supply that large town, which too rise all together behind the Cock-Inn, having different names appropriated to their respective uses, as the Pudding-well, the Horse-well, the Washing-well and the Meat-well."

These were the words of Dr Robert Plot writing in his Natural History of Staffordshire in 1686 about Townwell Fold.

No Darlington Street then, but Blossom's Fold did a dog-leg turn into Townwell Fold, where you

by *Joyce and Tony Perry*

walked past gardens of properties fronting Cock Street (Victoria Street) on your left, with, on the right, the Cock Bowling Green. The Cock was a long-established Inn going back to at least the early 1500s.

There was a field, Cock Close, and The Tenters, rows of hooked supports for hanging out cloth for stretching – we use the phrase 'on tenterhooks'.

Beyond a row of buildings was the Puddle Brook, with the wells offering clean water. Sheep may have grazed or been penned in the

Close. Being next to these facilities, there might well have been wool and cloth trades workers present in the buildings.

The town's 1802 Trade Directory showed metal craftsmen trading in the Fold, but also a tanner and a currier (who dressed and coloured leather after tanning) – by 1861 we had Skinner Street – and there was still a wool connection at No. 6, described as a 'weaving shop'.

The Fold had branches off, such as Giffard Arms Yard, and spread as far as Salop Street.

Gradual redevelopment and ownership changes led to Beatties being the main frontager.

James Beattie had opened his first shop in Victoria Street in

1877, and the success of the business meant expansion, buying adjoining properties.

Walk around the store and go up and down steps to different levels – you may be entering Bradford's, which fronted Darlington Street, Burton's menswear in the 1932 Queen Square corner building with its elephants (look up between the windows), or into the shell of the Picturehouse Cinema, now haberdashery.

This closed when the 'Talkies' were coming in, and the council widened Victoria Street, in 1929, and so Beatties built their grand new frontage.

The crescent continued to ground floor level, where an arcade led through to the Fold.

Their frontage to the Fold, if refurbished, with entrances reopened and windows becoming displays again, could spark others to bring property back into use, and the council to improve and promote this once popular public route and reminder of the wool and cloth trade that made the town wealthy.

For further information read The Folds of Wolverhampton published by Brewin Books and log onto www.wolverhampton-folds.co.uk a website to inform people, promote the Folds and encourage their improvement, development and further use.

● Archive photographs courtesy Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies.

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What's On! Walsall

New date for Arctic Monkeys

ARCTIC Monkeys have rescheduled an appearance at Birmingham's LG Arena after leaving thousands of fans disappointed when they cancelled hours before a gig.

Lead singer Alex Turner has been diagnosed with laryngitis and was unable to perform last week. The band will return on November 20. All tickets will remain valid.

Leo to make you feel like dancing

GUARANTEED to make you feel like dancing is Leo Sayer and his all star Australian band who are calling in at Bilston as part of their worldwide tour.

He will be bringing back all the old favourites like You Make Me Feel Like Dancing, Thunder In My Heart, When I Need You, Long Tall Glasses, and many more at the Robin 2 this Saturday.

Tickets are £27 (advance) and £27.50 on the door.

Finding Way to Newhampton

FOLK group Pilgrims' Way will be bringing their particular brand of traditional music to Newhampton Folk Club this Saturday.

The band will be playing at the Newhampton pub, Riches Street, Whitmore Reans at 8.30pm. Pete Threlkes will be supporting. Tickets are £8 advance, £10 on night. Call 01902 820958 or 340603

Festive favourite should be right up your street

THIS is a real gift for theatre lovers as *Miracle on 34th Street*, based on one of the most popular and best-loved Christmas films of all time, pays a festive visit to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre as part of the UK Premiere Tour.

Based on the 1947 motion picture it is the heart-warming story of Susan,

Lowings adds new tour date

STOURBRIDGE singer/songwriter Kim Lowings has added a new date to her latest tour which is promoting her EP *Deepest, Darkest Night*.

Lowings, who plays with The Greenwood, which is a collective of local musicians, will be appearing at The Hinckley ACT, Leicestershire for the first time on December 13.

Support

Lowings, who has been touring for most of the year, will also be playing in Kings Norton, Birmingham on November 17 at Lobelia's Lazy Sunday Songwriter Sessions at the Tower of Song from 8pm.

The following night the trio, Tim Rogers on percussion and Andrew Lowings on guitar, will be playing at the Warwick Folk Club at the Warwick Arms Hotel, High Street.

Then they will be back in Birmingham supporting the legendary Martin Simpson at the Red Lion Folk Club, Vicarage Road, Kings Heath on November 27.

a young girl who dreams of a father and brother to make her family complete, and Kris Kringle, a kindly old bearded man who claims he is the real Santa Claus.

When he is employed as a Santa at a department store grotto run by Susan's mother, he quickly spreads a wave of love through New York City.

But Susan has always been told by her mother that there is no such thing as Santa so can he really help make her wish come true? This all-singing, all-dancing musical adaptation is an uplifting family tale of battling cynicism and learning what it truly means to believe.

Awards

It runs at the Grand from next Thursday (14) to Saturday (16) with evening and daytime performances.

Miracle on 34th Street originated as a 1947 motion picture starring Maureen O'Hara, John Payne, Natalie Wood and Edmund Gwenn. The film became a perennial Christmas favourite, winning three Academy Awards and being nominated for Best Picture.

If you miss it at the Grand it is moving down the road to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre where an extra date has been announced due to the demand for tickets. It is due to run there from Thursday, December 5 to Saturday, December 7. The extra matinee performance is on December 6 at 1pm.

Cutting edge of Lawnmower



James Acaster on the road with UK tour

COMEDIAN James Acaster is following his hit Edinburgh show with a UK tour that reaches Birmingham later this month.

Lawnmower, Acaster's sell-out Edinburgh Fringe performance, was short-listed for Foster's Edinburgh Comedy Award best show. Now, the comic is on the road with his critically-acclaimed act.

Acaster will reveal on the 31-date tour how he's attempting to clear Yoko Ono's name, why he continues to dress head to toe in Marks & Spencer and the reasons why he's obsessed with Mariachi music.

Nominations

Since winning *Off The Kerb's* Laughing Boy New Act of the Year in 2010, Acaster has gone on to receive critical acclaim for his Edinburgh shows, including award nominations in 2012 and 2013.

As well as appearing on stage, the funnyman recently recorded 'James Acaster's Findings' for BBC Radio 4.

In August 2010, he performed as part of BBC's 'Stand Up on the Street' during the Edinburgh Festival, while TV appearances have included Russell Howard's Good News, Dave's One Night Stand, Show and Tell, Live at The Comedy Store and the Edinburgh Fest Comedy Gala.

James Acaster performs at the Glee Studio in Birmingham on Sunday, November 28. Call 08714 720 400 for ticket details.

REVIEW

The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace, Symphony Hall

NEARLY 1,700 in the audience and no programmes left at half time, that's how popular the great Karl Jenkins is.

His ardent band of followers were not left disappointed as the two-hour programme punched out nods to the old from his Palladio orchestral opener to the choir's beautifully-syncretized 'Paradise' from his Requiem which closed the first half.

In between there were excerpts from the less well-known Stabat Mater, which was glorious and The Peacemakers, which has still to grow on me.

Expense

The second half was taken up with his anti-war Armed Man composition. Popular with both his non-singing fans and those in amateur choirs, despite the galling expense of performing it, it deservedly won a standing ovation for being a masterpiece in how it should be done.

A work of contrasts which weave together fear, rage, menace, prayer, resolution and hope, there are soaring melodies and a sense of urgency which were caught perfectly by the percussion section.

Some productions use a backdrop of film images designed to emotive but such was the passion in Symphony Hall on Saturday they would have been entirely superfluous.

Sarah Cowen-Strong

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Dermot O'Leary

The X Factor ITV, 8pm

Loosen your tie and mix yourself a cocktail – it's Big Band Week on The X Factor. Of course, that might not be good news for all the contestants. Tamera Foster, Nicholas McDonald and Sam Bailey have all shown they can belt out a ballad, so if they've made it this far, they should be in their element. However, some of the acts who prefer rock, R'n'B or acoustic versions of pop classics may be on shakier ground. Luckily, Dermot O'Leary, who is always nicely turned out, should feel at home in a week when the contestants will be suited and booted, ready to croon a classic.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Live. **10.45** The Lord Mayor's Show. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News: Regional News. Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Live Rugby League World Cup. **4.30** Final Score. **5.25** BBC News: Regional News. Weather. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities. **6.30** Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman co-host the main show once again, giving Bruce Forsyth a break ahead of next week's edition from Blackpool Tower Ballroom. **8.00** Atlantis. Jason learns Ariadne and Hephtarian are to be married, so with nothing to lose he enters a brutal fighting tournament – where the undefeated bridegroom-to-be is among the combatants. **8.50** The National Lottery Live. Chris Evans reveals the results of the Lotto and the Thunderball. **9.00** BBC News: Weather. **9.15** The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance. James Blunt, Alfie Boe and Katie Melua perform in this annual event paying tribute to the victims of war and conflict, in the presence of the Queen at the Royal Albert Hall. **10.50** Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Chelsea v West Bromwich Albion at Stamford Bridge and Liverpool v Fulham at Anfield. National Lottery Update. **12.10** The Football League Show. **12.45** Weatherview. **12.50** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.30** Film: Ann Vickers. (1933) **7.45** Film: Double Dynamite. (1951) **9.05** The Sky at Night. (R) **9.25** Real History of Britain. (R) **9.55** The Life of Birds. (R) **10.45** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.15** The A to Z of TV Cooking. **1.00** Live MotoGP. **2.00** Live Tennis: ATP World Tour Finals. **5.00** Live International Rugby Union. **7.30** The Irresistible Rise of Boris Johnson. Michael Cockerell examines the life and career of the London mayor, featuring interviews with Johnson himself and those who know him best. (R) **8.30** Dad's Army. The men of the Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard platoon take charge when a large naval gun is delivered to the church hall. (R) **9.00** Film: Hello Quo. (2012) Premiere. Documentary examining rock band Status Quo's five-decade history, featuring rarely seen archive material as well as footage of the 2012 reunion of the original line-up. **10.20** TOTP2: Status Quo. A selection of the band's appearances on Top of the Pops, including performances of Pictures of Matchstick Men, Rockin' All Over the World and Whatever You Want. **11.05** Film: Rescue Dawn. (2006) A fighter pilot leads a break-out from a prison camp and makes a desperate escape through the jungle. Werner Herzog's Vietnam War drama, with Christian Bale. **1.05** Film: White Material. (2009) **2.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.15** Animals. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **8.15** Bottom Knockout Street. **8.30** Munch Box. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Saturday Cookbook. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News: Weather. **11.30** Surprise Surprise. (R) **12.35** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **1.30** Doc Martin. (R) **2.30** Catchphrase. (R) **3.15** Film: Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope. (1977) **5.35** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather. **6.00** New You've Been Framed! **6.30** Fool Britannia. A vegetarian party mistakenly books a sausage vendor. Last in the series. **7.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. Boyzone's Shane Lynch, former athlete Colin Jackson, Emmerdale actress Fiona Wade and comedian Stephen K Amos take on one of the show's resident trivia experts. **8.00** The X Factor. As the live studio rounds reach the halfway point, the would-be chart stars are accompanied by a full orchestra for big-band week. **9.35** The Jonathan Ross Show. With Andy Murray, Celine Dion, Johnny Vegas and John Barrowman. **10.35** ITV News: Weather. **10.50** FA Cup Highlights. Action from the first round. **12.20** Take Me Out. (R) **1.25** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Volleyball. (R) **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** The American Football Show. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Heston's Ultimate Feast. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.35** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.05** Come Dine with Me. Businesswoman Sarah Freeman hosts the final dinner party for Dudley, West Midlands, and hopes to impress her guests with a Moroccan menu. (R) **6.35** Channel 4 News. **7.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. When floating corpses appear, Coulson and the agents must hunt down an elusive killer in an investigation where nobody is safe. (R) **8.00** Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud revisits a British woman who moved to southern Spain 10 years ago with her husband – who has since died – and planned to build a modern home in the Andalusian hills. (R) **9.00** Film: Predators. (2010) Hardened fighters from across the globe are taken to an alien jungle planet to become prey in a big-game hunt. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Adrien Brody and Topher Grace. **11.05** Film: Dog Soldiers. (2002) British horror, starring Kevin McKidd. **1.15** Stand Up for the Week. (R) **2.10** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.25** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.15** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Megaforce. **10.35** Sluggerra. **11.00** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.30** Ben Fogle's Animal Clinic. (R) **12.30** Film: Columbo: Suitable for Framing. (1971) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **2.05** Film: Columbo: Dagger of the Mind. (1972) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Honor Blackman. **4.05** Film: Silverado. (1985) Western, with Kevin Kline and Kevin Costner. **6.40** 5 News Weekend. **6.45** Film: 2012. (2009) As the human race faces extinction in a global cataclysm, a writer tries to get his family to the last safe refuge. Disaster movie, starring John Cusack, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Danny Glover. Edited for language. **9.35** Most Shocking Talent Show Moments. Countdown of 50 of the most memorable moments from TV talent shows, including life-changing first appearances on Britain's Got Talent by Susan Boyle and Paul Potts. (R) **12.30** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.05** Charley Boorman's Extreme Frontiers. The adventurer travels across Canada. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. The work of an animal sanctuary. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. Matt and Jess receive an official warning. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. Big Chris's friends plan to surprise him. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. The children argue. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. Francis learns to ride a bike. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. Double bill. Making the world's biggest pancake. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. Roary fetches a batch of eggs. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Great TV Mistakes **7.30** Rugby Union **8.30** Film: Cars (2006) **10.20** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **11.05** Family Guy **BBC Four** **7.00** Frozen Planet **8.00** Stories from the Dark Earth: Meet the Ancestors Revisited **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.45** Totally British **70s Rock'n' Roll** **11.45** Elvis Costello: Mystery Dance **ITV2** **3.05** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now: Hall of Fame **4.10** You've Been Framed! **5.40** Film: The Borrowers (1997) **7.30** Film: Dragonheart (1996) **9.35** The Xtra Factor **10.35** Celebrity Juice **11.25** Fake Reaction **ITV3** **2.45** Agatha Christie's Poirot **4.45** A Touch of Frost **6.55** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Bomb Girls **11.00** Wire in the Blood **ITV4** **2.15** Film: The Green Berets (1968) **5.05** Storage Wars **7.00** I Want That Car **8.00** Film: Cannonball Run II (1984) **10.15** Film: Death Wish 2 (1981) **E4** **4.15** Film: Aliens in the Attic (2009) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **7.30** Suburgatory **8.00** New Girl **9.00** Film: The Wedding Date (2005) **10.45** The Inbetweeners **11.20** The Big Bang Theory **11.50** Rude Tube: WTF?!? **Film4** **3.05** The Parent Trap (1998) **5.45** Avatar (2009) **9.00** The Departed (2006) Boston police plant a mole in a mobster's crew, unaware the gangster has done the same to them. Martin Scorsese's thriller, with Leonardo DiCaprio and Matt Damon. **11.55** Sexy Beast (2000)

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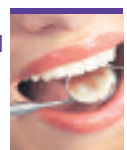
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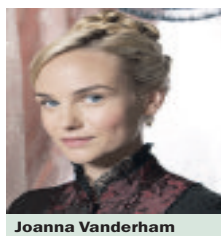
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SUNDAY'S TV 10.11.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



The Paradise

BBC1, 8pm
There's a little bit of excitement in the department store this week, which makes a nice change from the usual doom and gloom. Denise is thrilled about her new role, but her eagerness may not last long if Moray insists on dismissing all her ideas. She's soon forced to make some tough decisions as Moray becomes more and more distant, and she begins to realise that taking on responsibility probably isn't all it's cracked up to be. Edmund's shop suffers a break-in and Susy is forced to deal with demons from her past when she recognises the culprit.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.40 Match of the Day. (R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.** **10.20 Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph.** **12.25 Sunday Politics.** **1.40 BBC News; Weather.** **1.55 EastEnders.** **3.45 Escape to the Country.** (R) **4.15 Points of View.** **4.30 Songs of Praise.** **5.05 Remembrance Week.** **5.55 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.**
6.20 Countryfile. The team visits Cannock Chase, Staffordshire, takes a tour of Shugborough Hall and, for Remembrance Sunday, finds out how the area was used for training troops.
7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Another couple leave the show. Plus, music by the Tenors and the Puppini Sisters.
8.00 The Paradise. Denise's excitement does not last long when Moray dismisses one of her ideas. Susy tackles a demon from her past, and Katherine tries to bring Tom and Flora closer.
9.00 Richard Hammond Builds a Universe. Having created a CGI planet, Richard Hammond takes the idea further as he explores what it would take to create a universe, with experiments helping show how it all fits together.
10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
10.25 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Manchester United v Arsenal.
11.45 Rugby League World Cup. Highlights from the final round of group fixtures.
12.30 Weatherview. **12.35 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.25 Film: They Won't Believe Me.** (1947) **8.00 Alan Titchmarsh's Garden Secrets.** (R) **9.00 Gardeners' World.** (R) **9.30 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **11.00 Rugby Union.** **12.00 MOTD2 Extra.** **12.30 Live MotoGP.** **2.00 Live Tennis: ATP World Tour Finals.** **5.00 Inspire: The Olympic Journey.** (R) **5.30 Coast.** (R)
6.00 Flog It! The team visits Coventry Cathedral, where Will Axon and Michael Baggott value items including a collection of Clarice Cliff and a trio of watches. (R)
7.00 Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph. David Dimbleby and Sophie Raworth introduce highlights of this morning's ceremony in Whitehall paying tribute to members of the forces who have died while serving their country.
8.00 Africa 2013: Countdown to the Rain. Kate Humble and Simon King report from Zambia, as lions and wild dogs compete for territory, elephants try to keep cool in the fierce heat and leopards enjoy days of plenty.
9.00 Great Continental Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo travels through Germany, learning about an Edwardian fitness craze and revealing how British yachtsmen spied on the German navy in the early 20th century.
10.00 QI. With Sarah Milligan, Jason Manford and Bill Bailey. (R)
10.30 Film: Notes on a Scandal. (2006) Drama, starring Judi Dench.
12.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R) **12.30 Sign Zone: Countryfile.** (R) **1.25 Holly City.** (R) **2.25 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10 Matt Hatter Chronicles.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan.** (R) **6.50 Dino Dan.** (R) **7.00 Animals.** (R) **7.15 Animals.** (R) **7.25 Sooty.** **7.35 Horrid Henry.** (R) **7.50 Big Time Rush.** **8.15 Bottom Knockout Street.** **8.30 Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge.** **9.25 ITV News.** **9.30 Inside the National Trust.** **10.30 Sunday Side Up.** **11.30 Sunday Scoop.** **12.30 ITV News; Weather.** **12.45 Countrywise.** (R) **1.00 Fool Britannia.** (R) **1.30 Live FA Cup Football.** **4.30 Downton Abbey.** (R) **5.35 Prize Island.**
6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.45 ITV News; Weather.
7.00 Surprise Surprise. A community hero meets former boxing world champion Joe Calzaghe, Little Mix perform in the studio and an ex-serviceman is reunited with his old comrades.
8.00 The X Factor Results. With live music by Robbie Williams and Celine Dion.
9.00 Downton Abbey. Rosamund Pike comes up with a plan to help Edith out of her predicament, Alfred realises too late he may have made a mistake and Anna is concerned by unexpected news. Last in the series.
10.35 ITV News; Weather.
10.50 FA Cup Highlights. Bishop's Stortford v Northampton Town.
11.35 Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union. Highlights of the opening pool matches in this season's competition.
12.30 The Store. **2.30 Motorsport UK.** **3.20 ITV Nightscreen.** **5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10 The Hoobs.** (R) **6.35 The Hoobs.** (R) **7.00 The American Football Show.** (R) **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.00 Frasier.** (R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch.** **12.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **1.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **1.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **2.00 The Simpsons.** (R) **2.30 The Simpsons.** (R) **3.00 The Simpsons.** (R) **3.30 Gadget Man.** (R) **4.00 Film: The Golden Compass.** (2007)
6.05 Channel 4 News.
6.25 The Political Slot.
6.30 Digging the Great Escape. Engineers, archaeologists and serving RAF officers head to the site of the 1944 event to excavate the remains of the tunnel that allowed 76 men to escape from a German POW camp. (R)
8.00 Tutankhamun: The Mystery of the Buried Mummy - Secret History. Egyptologist Chris Naunton investigates a mysterious burning of the boy king's mummy.
9.00 Homeland. Carrie turns the tables on the mastermind of the Langley bombing, but recruiting one of Iran's most powerful operatives proves to have dangerous consequences.
10.05 Was It Something I Said? With Reginald D. Hunter and Sally Phillips.
10.35 Toast of London. Steven meets his new girlfriend's aristocratic father.
11.05 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. With Robin Thicke, Paul O'Grady and Jack Whitehall. (R)
12.05 Fresh Meat. (R) **12.55 American Football Live.** **4.45 KOTV Boxing Weekly.** (R) **5.15 Countdown.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05 Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **6.15 Fifi and the Flowerets.** (R) **6.25 Bubble Guppies.** (R) **6.35 The Mr Men Show.** (R) **6.50 Chloë's Closet.** (R) **7.00 Milkshake! Monkey.** (R) **7.05 Roobarb and Custard Too.** (R) **7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) **7.25 Make Way for Noddy.** (R) **7.40 City of Friends.** (R) **7.55 Little Princess.** (R) **8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky.** (R) **8.25 Angelina Ballerina.** (R) **8.45 Rupert Bear.** (R) **9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.15 Toby's Travelling Circus.** (R) **9.30 Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **9.45 Jelly Jamm.** (R) **10.00 Power Rangers: Super Samurai.** (R) **10.35 Slugterra.** **11.00 5 News Special: Remembrance Sunday.** **11.05 Lost Heroes of World War One.** (R) **11.25 Britain's Secret Schindler.** (R) **12.25 Goering's Last Secret: Revealed.** (R) **1.25 Film: All I Want for Christmas.** (2007) **3.05 Film: Jack Frost.** (1998) **5.00 Film: White Fang 2: The Myth of the White Wolf.** (1994)
7.00 5 News Weekend.
7.05 Film: Rush Hour. (1998) Comedy adventure, starring Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker.
9.00 Film: Justice. (2011) Premiere. Thriller, with Nicolas Cage, January Jones, Guy Pearce, IronE Singleton and Harold Perrineau.
11.10 Film: Cleaner. (2007) Crime thriller, starring Samuel L. Jackson.
12.55 SuperCasino. **3.05 The Gadget Show.** (R) **4.00 Wildlife SOS.** (R) **4.25 Make It Big.** (R) **4.50 Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **5.00 Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.10 Hana's Helpline.** (R) **5.20 Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.30 The Funky Valley Show.** (R) **5.40 Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **5.50 Hana's Helpline.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Craze
7.10 Great TV Mistakes **7.40 Film: Armageddon** (1998) **10.00 Family Guy** **10.25 The Revolution Will Be Televised** **10.55 Family Guy** **11.15 American Dad!**
BBC Four
7.00 Dreaming the Impossible: Unbuilt Britain **8.00 The Review Show** **9.00 Requiem** **10.30 Film: About Elly** (2009)
ITV2
2.50 Film: Two Weeks Notice (2002) **4.50 Film: Mr Bean's Holiday** (2007) **5.45 Film: Kindergarten Cop** (1990) **9.00 The Xtra Factor** **10.00 The Only Way Is Essex** **10.50 Film: Coyote Ugly** (2000)
ITV3
3.50 Film: The Pure Hell of St Trinian's (1960) **5.45 Agatha Christie's Poirot** **9.00 An Audience with Diana Ross** **10.00 Film: Changeling** (2008)
ITV4
3.45 Film: Flash Gordon (1980) **6.00 British Touring Car Championship** 2013 Review **8.00 Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union** **9.00 Film: Jaws 2** (1978) **11.25 Jermain Defoe: Sports Life Stories**
E4
4.00 How I Met Your Mother **5.00 2 Broke Girls** **6.00 Rules of Engagement** **6.30 The Big Bang Theory** **8.00 Film: The Day the Earth Stood Still** (2008) **10.00 Drifters** **10.30 The Inbetweeners** **11.00 Stephen Merchant: Hello Ladies**
Film4
2.35 Young Sherlock Holmes (1985) **4.45 Bride Wars** (2009) **6.30 The Legend of Zorro** (2005) **9.00 The Untouchables** (1987) Gangster thriller, starring Kevin Costner. **11.20 Wall Street** (1987)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Out for Justice, Channel 5, 10.55pm

A tough Brooklyn cop learns that his partner and best friend has been murdered in front of his family by a vicious drug dealer, the pair's lifelong enemy and the scourge of the neighbourhood. The detective heads into the underworld on a one-man vengeance mission, but finds the killer's criminal bosses are also hunting for him. Action thriller, with Steven Seagal, William Forsythe and Jerry Orbach. (1991)

TUESDAY

Cabaret, BBC1, 12.05am

A flighty nightclub singer in 1930s Berlin is drawn into a love triangle with a sensitive would-be English writer and an aristocratic German, as the Nazi party grows in might and the country heads inexorably toward war. Oscar-winning musical directed and choreographed by Bob Fosse, starring Liza Minnelli, Joel Grey, Michael York and Helmut Griem. (1972)

WEDNESDAY

Dirty Harry, Channel 5, 10pm

Maverick San Francisco detective "Dirty" Harry Callahan sets out to capture a deranged sniper picking off victims at random. Although his own tactics barely stay within the confines of the law, he is determined the killer will face his particular brand of justice, regardless of his superiors' disapproval. Don Siegel's thriller, starring Clint Eastwood, Harry Guardino and Andy Robinson. (1971)



Up in the Air, Friday, BBC2, 11.10pm

THURSDAY

The Last Frontier, Channel 4, 12.15pm

A backwoods trapper signs up as a cavalry scout at a fort manned by inexperienced soldiers, where he falls in love with a colonel's wife. On taking over command of the garrison, the officer plans to lead his men in a reckless attack on a hostile Indian tribe – and it is down to the frontiersman to save his comrades from a massacre. Western, starring Victor Mature, Robert Preston and Anne Bancroft. (1955)

FRIDAY

Up in the Air, BBC2, 11.10pm

A corporate downsizing expert loves his life, detached from everyday existence and striving to achieve a personal goal of 10 million accumulated air miles. However, his lifestyle comes under threat by an up-and-coming executive with a revolutionary approach that would make his role all but obsolete. Comedy drama, starring George Clooney, Vera Farmiga, Anna Kendrick, Jason Bateman and Amy Morton. (2009)

Pick of the Week

Stars shine bright on a night of charitable fun

Hosting a live TV show isn't easy – just ask Mick Fleetwood and Sam Fox. It's 24 years since they co-hosted the Brit Awards, but the thought of them hemming and hawing their way through several painful hours of presenting duties still sends shivers down the spine of those who saw it.

We reckon wannabe TV presenters everywhere should watch it so they know exactly how not to go about a live broadcast.

Thankfully, Children in Need is in far more seasoned hands. Tess Daly, Fearne Cotton, Nick Grimshaw and Zoe Ball are all old hands at live broadcasts, but the glue holding the whole thing together is, as ever, Terry Wogan – and the show just wouldn't be the same without him.

He makes the whole process seem completely effortless – perhaps it's because he's so affable and always does his best to make those appearing in the studio at their ease.

"I'm not a confrontational interviewer," explains Wogan. "It would be easy to be abrasive, but nobody would want to come on the show."

Sometimes an interview I think didn't go well was actually very good, and vice versa. You're not always the best judge yourself!

Children in Need is now an iconic annual event, and is so huge, it can no longer be confined to just one marathon programme broadcast at prime time.

Instead, the action begins around lunchtime with a Strictly Come Dancing-themed Bargain Hunt special, while Pointless and The One Show also get in on the fund-raising act.

But the real fun begins at 7.30pm, when the telethon itself begins.

Those involved hope to raise more than the £28million collected in 2012, and have a heap of entertainment lined up that they hope will inspire us to dig deep – something the Great British public has continued to do, despite the credit crunch.

Among the delights to look out for is a dance extravaganza featuring the cast of EastEnders, a very special edition of Room 101, and musical performances from the likes of Tinie Tempah, JLS, One Direction, and Ellie

Goulding, singer of this year's CIN single, How Long Will I Love You.

But sci-fi fans will be most keen to see the now traditional appearance of a short Doctor Who special on the night.

No details have been released about what it may feature, but fans have already begun speculating about it online. With the 50th anniversary of the show taking place later in the month, many are hoping it will tie-in with that – and may even include some secrets about the mysterious incarnation played by John Hurt, who appeared briefly in the last episode of the previous run.

But whatever happens, Children in Need will always really be about fundraising – and is something Terry is only too pleased to be involved with.

"It is always a privilege and pleasure, the highest point of my year, to present BBC Children in Need," says Wogan. "This year we are hoping the great British public will give us even more. We've certainly got a fantastic show line-up this year. I know I say that every year but this year really is special."



The fundraising fun returns, Children in Need 2013, Friday, BBC1, 7.30pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Emmerdale ITV, 7pm

Amy may have abandoned little Kyle in a phone box when he was born, and then put him up for adoption, but she's certainly not going to give up on him again. In fact, she's so determined to be part of the little boy's life that his grandmother Joanie has called the police and taken the extra precaution of getting a restraining order. Amy is crushed when Diane tells her the news, but instead of giving up hope, she simply comes up with a new, more drastic approach – one that will mean choosing between staying with Andy and starting a new life with her son. Meanwhile, Priya has second thoughts on the day of her termination.

Ripper Street BBC1, 9pm

Brace yourselves for a shock – Reid and his colleagues aren't about to be faced with an untimely death. Instead, they're called in to investigate the abduction of a politician from a popular Whitechapel theatre. Rose Erskine has been working there since leaving the brothel, but will Drake's long-buried desire for her be awakened when they come face-to-face again? Reid, meanwhile, suspects the kidnappers are members of an all-female gang connected to councillor Jane Cobden, who harbours some rather radical views. Long Susan becomes one of their victims too, but finds herself drawn to her captors' cause – but what is it that the villains actually want to achieve?

cause – but what is it that the villains actually want to achieve?

TUESDAY

Martin Lewis Money Show – The Twelve Saves of Christmas ITV, 8pm

Don't worry, Martin Lewis isn't trying to make us celebrate yuletide in November. Instead, his hour-long helping of seasonal saving tips is coming to us just in time to help us plan a thrifty Christmas celebration. Martin and reporter Saira Khan reveal that it's not too late to bag yourself a bargain, and unveil their unique 'advent calendar', predicting when the major retailers are most likely to start offering discounts, so viewers can be primed to pounce. And there's also a reminder that Christmas doesn't have to be commercial at all as Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby shares his own tips on making sure that it's the memories that last into the New Year, not the repayments.

The Story of Musicals Channel 4, 9pm

Business may be booming in London's West End, but for the producers, actors and writers dreaming of staging a hit musical, that just means the competition is even fiercer. This new four-part series takes a look at the process of putting on a show, as the first episode goes behind the scenes of

Academy Award-winning director Sam Mendes' new take on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The production was launched in a blaze of publicity, but as this series shows, the real drama doesn't take place on opening night. Once the initial media excitement dies down, how do you keep filling those theatre seats?

WEDNESDAY

JFK's Secret Killer: The Evidence Channel 5, 9pm

November 22 will mark the 50th anniversary of the assassination of US President John F. Kennedy, which can only mean one thing – a new wave of theories about who really pulled the trigger. This documentary aims to get to the bottom of the case by recruiting a seasoned police detective to examine the events of that fateful day at the Dealey Plaza, Dallas. Using witness testimony, as well as the latest technology and methods which weren't available in 1963, the programme reaches a remarkable conclusion about the true identity of JFK's assassin.

THURSDAY

Children in Need Rocks BBC1, 8pm

Gary Barlow is going to meet himself coming backwards one of these days. In and amongst his X Factor duties, showbiz's busiest man has somehow found the time to sweet-talk some of his closest pals into a one-off concert. Chris Evans and Fearne Cotton will be hosting the event, which takes place at the Apollo in Hammersmith, London, and will see some of the biggest names in the industry rock the crowds. Acts including Kings of Leon, Robbie Williams, Barry Manilow, Dizzee Rascal, the Wanted, Little Mix, Ellie Goulding, Rizzle Kicks, Bastille, Tom Odell and the Lumineers are all set to perform.

FRIDAY

Chris Tarrant Goes Fishing Channel 5, 7pm

The series which sees telly presenter and quizmaster Chris Tarrant swap his lifelines for nylon line and sample some of the world's greatest fishing grounds continues, as this week he – along with trusty guide John Horsey – heads to Wellesley Lake in Canada's Yukon territory. The frigid waters are full of pike, which are excellent sport fish, however they're not what Chris and professional angler John are after – they're looking for the elusive Arctic char, a relative of the salmon which can grow in excess of 50lbs in weight and sit proudly at the top of the food chain. But can they tempt the monsters out of hiding?

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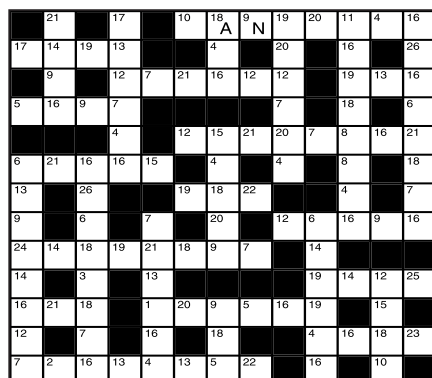
Puzzler

Brain Gym

No.246

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
T	M	L	Z	K	N	A	O	S	J	U	R	Y													
B	P	D	H	F	I	W	E	C	G	V	X	Q													

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

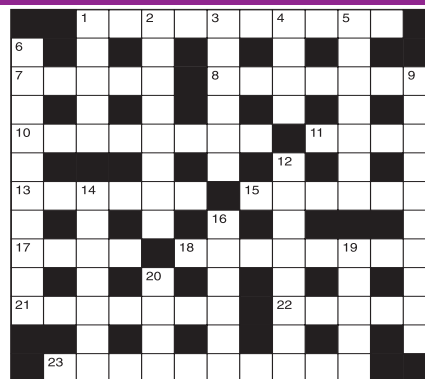
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Does it make things sticky for motorists? (7,3)
- Best conceivable thought to fifty (5)
- All the same, a soldier has to assume it (7)
- Dog raves after fruit (8)
- As long as there's money in it, usually (4)
- Contract to cut down (6)
- Hand over and die (4,2)
- Tinker returns without hesitation to make garments (4)
- Charm one's way in (8)
- Fully satisfy it at sea, perhaps (7)
- No longer lie about being an outcast (5)
- Their work is play (10)

Down

- Some of the Irish land belongs to them (5)
- Marriage, for example, makes a nice change after all! (8)
- Sources of print? (6)
- Box for a piece of jewellery (4)
- In age so twisted, suffering pains (7)
- Do they stop cars in record time? (4,6)
- He stays well away from work (10)
- The beauty of justice (8)
- Vessel off course? (7)
- Eager to be camping? (6)
- They have points to drive home (5)
- To some a handy guide to events (4)



Quick Clues:

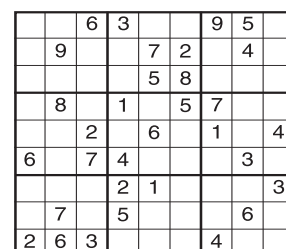
Across

- Bearing (10)
- Test (5)
- Defames (7)
- Involved (8)
- Rip (4)
- Argue (6)
- Fix (6)
- National Socialist (4)
- Conscious (8)
- Sincere (7)
- Follow (5)
- Uneasily (10)

Down

- Tendency (5)
- Soft (8)
- Frolicked (6)
- Masculine (4)
- Disregard (7)
- Presence (10)
- Reinforce (10)
- Immensity (8)
- Odd (7)
- Colonise (6)
- Composition (5)
- Leaning (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	3	4	2	1	6	9	7	8
9	2	8	7	3	4	1	6	5
1	7	6	8	5	9	3	2	4
8	5	9	3	7	2	4	1	6
3	6	2	1	4	5	8	9	7
7	4	1	9	6	8	2	5	3
6	8	3	5	9	1	7	4	2
2	1	5	4	8	7	6	3	9
4	9	7	6	2	3	5	8	1

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Renewal; 7 Spent; 9 Ash; 10 Cost price; 12 Bargain sale; 15 Pure fiction; 17 Free verse; 19 Rip; 21 Relax; 22 Takings. Down: 1 Tense; 2 See; 3 Halo; 4 Oppressor; 5 Knuckle; 8 Strict; 11 Base metal; 13 Guinea; 14 Quarter; 16 Siege; 18 Stay; 20 Die. QUICK - Across: 6 Convert; 7 Train; 9 Gay; 10 Deserving; 12 Standaside; 15 Painstaking; 17 Dissected; 19 Rat; 21 Annuity; 22 Deposit. Down: 1 Total; 2 Eve; 3 Urge; 4 Provident; 5 Lionise; 8 Remark; 11 Stands out; 13 Notice; 14 Sapient; 16 Rapid; 18 Ever; 20 Foe.



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Simon B

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K. Stuart Swash

PROPERTY AUCTION - 3rd DECEMBER 2013

THE OLD POST OFFICE, 6 THE SQUARE, IRONBRIDGE.

An impressive three-storey building with outlook to the world renowned Iron Bridge. Post Office Shop area, Cellar, Lounge, Dining Room, large Kitchen, Utility Four large Bedrooms and Bathroom. Self contained unit offering Sitting Room Kitchen, Shower Room, Patio Garden
Guide: £230,000 / £240,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY, SATURDAY & TUESDAY, 8th 9th & 12th NOVEMBER @ 9.45 a.m.

49 LICHFIELD ROAD, WEDNESFIELD

Well located Shop Unit and Living Accommodation. Main Shop, Staff Room, W.C. Self-contained First Floor Three Bed Flat Spacious recently fitted Kitchen and Bathroom, Balcony, Garage
Guide: £118,000 / £123,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8th & 9th NOVEMBER @ 9.30 a.m.

44 GROSVENOR STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON

A partially improved Semi, Three smart Bedrooms, excellent Loft space New Bathroom and Kitchen, Lounge and extended Dining Room, Garage, Store, Rear Garden
Guide: £54,000 / £59,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8th & 9th NOVEMBER @ 11.45 a.m.

LAND AT OLD STAFFORD ROAD, CROSS GREEN

An attractive plot of Land abutting the Staffs. & Worcs. Canal towpath (Bridge No. 71) Vehicular access and with large Mobile Home - Mains Water and Electricity approx. 100ft. road frontage
Guide: £38,000 / £48,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8th & 9th NOVEMBER @ 11.30 a.m.

ADDERLEY LODGE, 220 PENN ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

An impressive double fronted detached Victorian Residence offering spacious Accommodation, fine Hall, W.C., Three Reception, large Kitchen, Utility, Pantry Sun Lounge, Cellar, Four Bedrooms, Two Bath/ Shower Double Garage, large Work Shop, lovely grounds
Guide: £290,000 / £310,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8th & 9th NOVEMBER @ 11.30 a.m.
PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO VEHICULAR ACCESS AT THE TIME OF VIEWING - PARK IN COALWAY AVENUE / COALWAY ROAD

6 WHARF STREET, HORSELEY FIELDS, WOLVERHAMPTON

A large Semi, Foregarden, off-road Parking. Large Hall, W.C., Lounge, big Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas C.H.
Guide: £78,000 / £83,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8th & 9th NOVEMBER @ 9.45 a.m.

298 NEWHAMPTON ROAD WEST, WOLVERHAMPTON

Large Victorian House with big rooms. Hall, Two Reception, large Kitchen Rear Hall, Shower Room, Three Bedrooms & Box Room, spacious Bathroom. Gated vehicular access and off-road Parking, generous grounds Space to develop (STPP)
Guide: £125,000 / £130,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8th & 9th NOVEMBER @ 10.30 a.m.

25 MILFORD ROAD, BLAKENHALL, WOLVERHAMPTON

Investment - Currently producing £5,400 p.a.x. Large Semi in good location, Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Laundry, Three Bedrooms, white Bathroom, long Garden
Guide: £74,000 / £79,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8th & 9th NOVEMBER @ 1.30 p.m.

3 BEECHWOOD DRIVE, WIGHTWICK

Cul-de-sac position within prime residential location - a well proportioned Bungalow - would now benefit from upgrade - Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Study, Utility facility off, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, generous Loft space, Garage, lovely Rear Garden
Guide: £175,000 / £185,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8th & 9th NOVEMBER @ 12.30 p.m.

11 PEAR TREE LANE, WEDNESFIELD

Conveniently located and accessible to shops and schools - a Detached House offering Porch, Hall, Through Lounge / Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage, 70ft. Rear Garden
Guide: £110,000 / £115,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8th & 9th NOVEMBER @ 10.45 a.m.

14 CLAYTON CLOSE, BLAKENHALL, WOLVERHAMPTON

Convenient cul-de-sac location, UPVC & CH., Foregarden Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility area, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, long Rear Garden
Guide: £64,000 / £69,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8th & 9th NOVEMBER @ 12.45 p.m.

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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO
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Extended family residence

THIS superbly extended family residence on Jesson Road in Walsall has versatile accommodation, which can be fully appreciated during an internal inspection.

Including six first floor bedrooms – three having en suite facilities, together with a potential further bedroom on the ground floor – the house at 68 Jesson Road is on the market for offers around £650,000.

The and grounds are located in one of the most prestigious and well respected areas within the Borough of Walsall, convenient for all amenities, including a good range of schools for children of all ages within close proximity and the Walsall Campus of the University of Wolverhampton is located in Corway Road.

The leisure facilities of Walsall cricket, rugby and golf clubs are all within easy reach of the property. Call the agent Fraser Wood on 01922 317007 for further details.



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FEATURED PROPERTY


**WEDNESFIELD
BROAD LANE SOUTH**

- Magnificent Traditional Detached Residence on Prime Road
- Impressive Corner Plot Landscaped Gardens ● Energy 'D'
- Lounge & Dining Room ● Dining Kitchen ● Utility
- Four Large Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Garage ● Extensive Driveway ● Viewing Highly Recommended

OFFERS OVER £375,000

MANAGER'S CHOICE


**WILLENHALL
CRAB LANE**

- Exceptional traditional detached on premier road
- Drawing room ● Superb conservatory ● Dining room
- Breakfast kitchen and utility ● Energy Rating TBC
- Three bedrooms and loft room ● Luxury bathroom & En-suite
- Garage and large driveway ● Extensive rear garden

£369,950

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK


**WILLENHALL
STONEHOUSE AVENUE**

- Modern Style Detached ● Requires Modernisation
- Popular Cul-De-Sac Location ● No Upward Chain
- Lounge ● Dining Kitchen ● Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms ● Shower Room ● Energy Rating D
- Garage & Drive ● Pleasant Rear Gardens

£137,950

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**WILLENHALL
TALE ROAD**

- Impressive Modern Mid Town House ● No Chain
- Spacious Lounge, Hall with WC ● Dining Kitchen ● Conservatory
- Three Good-size Bedrooms ● Bathroom ● En-Suite
- Garage & Driveway ● Rear Gardens ● Energy Rating TBC
- Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating System

£149,950


**WILLENHALL
BECCLES DRIVE**

- Improved Modern Style Semi Detached ● Very Popular Location
- Lounge with Features Fireplace ● Dining Kitchen
- Three Good-size Bedrooms ● Bathroom ● En-suite Shower Room
- Driveway ● Front & Rear Gardens ● Energy Rating C
- Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating System

£139,950


**WALSALL
DICKINSON DRIVE**

- Pleasantly appointed traditional style semi detached
- Lounge ● 13th breakfast kitchen ● ENERGY RATING TBC
- Gas central heating ● Majority Double glazing
- Two bedrooms ● Bathroom with shower
- Generous Landscaped rear garden ● Off road parking to the fore

£115,000


**SHORT HEATH
WALKERS FOLD**

- Modern Mid Terrace in Popular Location
- Lounge with Dining Area ● Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing
- Driveway ● Rear Gardens ● Energy Rating C

£109,950


**WILLENHALL
THE CRESCENT**

- Period Mid Terrace Property ● No Upward Chain
- Lounge ● Dining Room ● Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms ● Ground Floor Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing
- Rear Gardens ● ENERGY RATING D

£92,000


**NEW INVENTION
LITTLETON ROAD**

- Mid Terrace Property in Popular Location ● No Chain
- Spacious Lounge ● Breakfast Kitchen ● Cash Offers Only
- Two Double Bedrooms ● Shower Room
- Majority Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Driveway & Rear Gardens ● Energy Rating C

£75,000


**OFF SNEYD LANE
CRAB LANE**

- Stunning Newly Improved Modern Style Link Detached Property
- Popular road ● Spacious Lounge Dining Room
- Re-Fitted Kitchen ● Conservatory ● Energy Rating E
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Garage ● Block Paved Driveway ● Rear Gardens

£184,950


**WILLENHALL
ENSURBY CLOSE (OFF STROUD AVENUE)**

- Well Presented Extended Modern Style Semi Detached
- Lounge & Spacious Dining Room ● Impressive Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating System ● Double Glazing
- Garage ● Driveway ● Rear Gardens ● Energy Rating D

£147,500


**PORTOBELLO
WAITE ROAD**

- Extended Improved Traditional Detached
- Lounge ● Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms ● Dining Room ● Breakfast Kitchen
- Gas CH ● Double Glazing ● Driveway
- Pleasant Rear Gardens ● Energy Rating E

£146,000


**WILLENHALL
BINBROOK ROAD (OFF STROUD AV)**

- Modern Style Semi Detached ● No Chain
- Lounge ● Dining Kitchen ● Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating System ● Double Glazing
- Garage ● Drive ● Rear gardens ● Energy Rating C

£134,950


**WILLENHALL
RAVENSBOROUGH GROVE**

- Excellent Modern Style Semi Detached Property
- Lounge ● Dining Kitchen ● ENERGY 'D'
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Garage and Driveway ● Pleasant Rear Garden
- Utility/Workshop ● Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing

£129,950


**WILLENHALL
PRINCETHORPE ROAD**

- Modern style and town house
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge ● Dining Kitchen
- Gas central heating ● Double glazing
- Good size rear garden ● Driveway to the fore ● Energy 'C'

OFFERS OVER £120,000


**PORTOBELLO
EVANS STREET**

- Traditional Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge ● Re-fitted Dining Kitchen
- Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Drive ● No Chain ● Gas CH ● Double Glaz ● Energy 'D'

£105,000


**WILLENHALL
HARPER STREET**

- Superb End Town House ● Popular Location ● No Chain
- Lounge ● Fitted Kitchen ● Energy Rating 'D'
- Two Double Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing
- Pleasant Rear Gardens ● Allocated Parking

£104,995


**WILLENHALL
FIBBERSLEY BANK**

- Modern Semi Detached Property in Cul-de-sac Location
- Two Bedrooms ● Lounge ● Dining Kitchen
- Bathroom ● Majority Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Parking ● Energy Rating 'C'

£99,950 offers over


**WILLENHALL
FIELD STREET**

- Renovated Period Semi Detached in Convenient Central Location
- Lounge & Dining Room ● Impressive Re-Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms ● Large Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing ● Energy rating E
- Pleasant Rear Gardens ● No Upward Chain

£95,000


**WILLENHALL
ALBION ROAD**

- Spacious Period Mid Terrace Property ● Convenient Location
- Lounge ● Dining Room ● Large Impressive Dining Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Garage and Driveway ● Pleasant Rear Garden
- Rear Gardens ● Energy Rating 'D'

£89,950


**WILLENHALL
GIPSY LANE**

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property ● No Upward Chain
- Lounge ● Dining Room ● Kitchen ● Ground Floor Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms ● First Floor Shower Room
- Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating System
- Rear Gardens ● Energy Rating TBC

£82,000


**WILLENHALL
TALE ROAD**

- Superior Detached Family Residence ● No Chain
- Large Lounge ● Dining Room ● Impressive Breakfast Kitchen
- Four Bedrooms ● 2 En-Suites ● Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating ● Energy Rating C
- Garage ● Driveway ● Rear Gardens

£249,950


**WILLENHALL
BIRCH COPPICE GARDENS**

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached Property in Cul-De-Sac Location
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Generous Plot with Rear & Side Gardens ● Downstairs WC
- UPVC Double Glazed Conservatory & Laundry Room ● Garage & Parking
- Established Rear Garden with Garden Pond ● EPC Rating 'E'

£139,950


**COPPICE FARM
LEVEN DRIVE**

- Improved Mid Terrace Property ● Popular Location
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Lounge with Dining Area ● Conservatory ● Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating System ● Double Glazing
- Driveway ● Rear Gardens ● Energy Rating C

£139,950

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**Stafford Road
BLOXWICH**

- Extended Five Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Laundry Room
- Shower Room
- Annex with Kitchen
- Lounge
- Garage & Parking
- Large Rear Garden

In the Region of £439,950



**Lichfield Road
BLOXWICH**

- Extended Four Bedroom Detached
- Immaculate Presentation
- Extensive Rear Garden
- Driveway
- Off Road Parking and Garage
- D.Glazing & Gas C.Heating

In the Region of £349,950



**Cameron Road
WALSALL**

- Three Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Large Open Plan Living Area
- Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Front & Rear Gardens & Parking
- Utility Room

In the Region of £279,950



**Coppice Farm Way
WILLENHALL**

- Extended Five Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Two Further Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Utility
- En-Suite Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Driveway

In the Region of £233,000



**Lichfield Road
BLOXWICH**

- Three Bedroom Detached
- Three Reception Rooms
- Kitchen with Pantry
- Downstairs W.C.
- Family Bathroom with Shower
- Large Rear Garden with Out-Building
- Garage
- Ample Off Road Parking

In the Region of £194,950



**Field Road
BLOXWICH**

- Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Fully Re-Furbished
- Two Reception Rooms
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Utility Room/WC
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Garages & Workshop

In the Region of £194,000



**Crab Lane
WILLENHALL**

- Three Bedroom Link-Detached
- Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Shower Room
- Driveway with Garage
- Double Glazing & Central Heating

£164,950



**Longwood Rise
WILLENHALL**

- Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Gardens
- Garage
- D.Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Driveway & off Road Parking

Offers in excess of £150,000



**Ravenscroft Road
WILLENHALL**

- Extended Five/Six Bedroom End-Terrace
- Lounge
- Sitting/Dining Room
- Extended Breakfast Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Driveway
- Large Corner Plot
- Rear Garden
- D.Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £149,950



**Newhome Way
BLOXWICH**

- Four Bedroom Town House
- Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with Walk-In Wardrobe
- En-Suite Bathroom
- Family Bathroom
- Conservatory
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage with Off Road Parking

In the Region of £145,000



**Coppice Farm Way
WILLENHALL**

- Extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Parking
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £140,000



**Coalmeadow Close
BLOXWICH**

- Two Bedroom End-Terrace
- Lounge
- Newly Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Newly Fitted Family Bathroom
- Bathroom
- Conservatory
- Front & Rear Gardens
- D.Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £120,000



**Lichfield Road
WILLENHALL**

- Two Bedroom End-Terrace
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Room
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- D.Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £114,995



**The Oaks
BLOXWICH**

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Guest W.C.
- En-Suite Shower
- Room
- Large Rear Corner Plot Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £112,950



**WALSALL
Ludgate Court, Camborne Road**

- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen/Diner
- Newly Fitted Family Bathroom
- Communal Grounds & Garage
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

In the Region £112,500



**Bloxwich Road
WALSALL**

- Three Bedroom Traditional Semi
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen & Veranda
- Family Bathroom
- Extensive Rear Garden

Offers in excess of £110,000



**Raymond Close
WALSALL**

- Three Bed Semi-Detached
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Separate W.C.
- Garage
- Driveway

In the Region of £110,000



**Squires Grove
WILLENHALL**

- Two Bedroom Coach House Apartment
- Large Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Converted Garage
- Allocated Parking
- D.Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £99,995



**Cresswell Crescent
BLOXWICH**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Extended Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Study
- Bathroom
- Separate W.C.
- D.Glazing & Gas C.Heating
- Front Driveway with Off Road Parking

In the Region of £99,950



**Lodge Street
WILLENHALL**

- Extended Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace Detached
- Lounge
- Re-Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Dining Room
- Extended Bathroom
- Central Heating
- Rear Garden
- Driveway
- Garage to Rear with Gated Access

In the Region of £99,950



**Queen Elizabeth Avenue
WALSALL**

- Three Bedroom Duplex Flat
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Separate W.C.
- Utility/Rear Lobby
- Roof Terrace
- Off Road Parking

In the Region of £98,500



**Bloxwich Lane
WALSALL**

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Lounge
- Thorough Kitchen/Diner
- Rear Extension
- Bathroom
- Garden
- Black Paved Driveway
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

Offers in excess of £90,000



**Haley Street
WALSALL**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Vernadiah/Utility
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite W.C.
- Off Road Parking for Two Cars

In the Region of £89,950



**Taverners Close
WILLENHALL**

- One Bedroom Detached House
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge
- Dining/Sun Room
- Bathroom
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- D.Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £87,950



**Margam Crescent
BLOXWICH**

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Breakfast Room/Dining Room
- Family Bathroom
- Loft Room
- Conversion
- Rear Garden
- Off Street Parking

Offers in excess of £85,000



**Pershore Road
BLOXWICH**

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Double Glazed
- Central Heating
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking

In the Region of £84,950



**Cook Road
BLOXWICH**

- CASH BUYERS ONLY
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room
- Bathroom
- Separate W.C.
- Garage
- D.Glazing & Central Heating

In the Region of £80,000



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**Lichfield Road
WALSALL**

- Extended Five Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Extended Kitchen
- Garage & Driveway
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- Bathroom
- Conservatory
- Front & Rear Gardens

In the Region of £189,950



**Woodall Street
BLOXWICH**

- 5% Deposit Paid
- Four Bedroom Detached
- Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Guest Cloakroom W.C.
- Garage & Off Road Parking
- Gardens

Offers in excess of £185,000



**Canning Road
WALSALL**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room
- Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Detached Garage
- Double Glazing
- Ample Off Road Parking

In the Region of £175,000



**Green Rock Lane
BLOXWICH**

- Three Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Corner Plot
- Kitchen with Large Pantry
- Verandah
- Newly Fitted Bathroom
- Guest W.C.
- Large Detached Garage

In the Region of £165,000



**Smiths Flour Mill
WALSALL**

- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Open Living Area
- Parking
- Fully Equipped Kitchen
- Family Bathroom with Shower
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating

In the Region of £120,000

**PELSALL
Allens Lane**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Through Lounge/Diner
- Conservatory
- L-Shape Extended Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- D.Glazing & Gas C.Heating
- Driveway with Off Road Parking

In the Region of £185,000



**Jesson Close
WALSALL**

- Two Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Large Lounge
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower
- Communal Grounds
- Garage & Additional Parking
- Secure Gated Complex
- Double Glazing

In the Region of £119,950



**BLOXWICH
Torridon Road**

- Two Bedroom Bungalow
- Lounge with Patio Doors to Rear Garden
- Kitchen-Wet Room with Shower
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £115,000



**BLOXWICH
Benton Crescent**

- Three Bedroom End-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Bathroom with Shower
- Separate W.C.
- Side Access with W.C.
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

£109,950



**Mulberry Place
BLOXWICH**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Gas Heating
- Double Glazing
- (Where Specified)
- Off Road Parking & Garage

In the Region of £109,950



**Coalpool Lane
WALSALL**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Guest W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- Side Room
- Large Rear Garden
- Large Driveway

In the Region of £108,500



**Star Close
WALSALL**

- Three Bedroom End-Terrace
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Dining Room
- Guest W.C.
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Front Garden
- Enclosed Rear Garden

Offers in excess of £90,000



**Wolverhampton Road
WALSALL**

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Lean To
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens

In the Region of £90,000



**Lewis Street
WALSALL**

- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Central Heating
- Rear Garden
- and Courtyard

Offers in excess of £80,000



**Jenner Road
WALSALL**

- Three Bedroom Terrace
- Front Reception Room
- Kitchen
- Rear Reception Room
- Shower Room
- Garage
- D.Glazing & Gas C-Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

Offers in excess of £77,500



**Webster Road
WALSALL**

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge/Kitchen/Diner
- Large Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing
- Gas Heating
- Ideal for First Time Buyer/Investors

In the Region of £75,000



**Elmsdale Court, Birmingham
WALSALL**

- Two Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Communal Grounds
- Allocated Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £74,950

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Sneyd Lane, Essington



EPC D

£675,000

A once in a lifetime opportunity to purchase one of the most substantial bungalows situated on the sought after "Sneyd Lane, Essington".

Bloxwich Road North, Willenhall



Awaiting EPC

£600,000

An impressive and substantial immaculately presented. Comprising eight bedroom, four bathroom detached home with double garage to rear.

Fibbersley, Willenhall



EPC C

£600,000

A recently completed bespoke five bedroom, five reception room, five bathroom detached residence with a cinema room.

Bursnips Road, Essington



EPC C

£385,000

A newly built four bedroom detached home with en-suite situated on a sought after road in Essington.

Wolverhampton Road, Essington



EPC D

£300,000

A detached dormer bungalow which has been extensively extended and improved by its current owner to a high specification.

Birchwood Close, Essington



EPC C

£250,000

A four bedroom detached home situated in a cul-de-sac location comprising en-suite to master bedroom, detached garage and rear garden.

Wood Lane, Willenhall



EPC C

£140,000

Immaculately presented three bedroom semi detached home situated in an enviable position on Wood Lane.

Longwood Rise, Willenhall



EPC D

£140,000

A three bedroom semi detached home situated on an exceptional corner plot with garage and driveway to the rear.

Short Street, Willenhall



Awaiting EPC

£135,000

An immaculately presented three bedroom detached home situated in Short Heath.

Perth Road, Summer Hayes



EPC D

£130,000

A three bedroom semi detached dormer bungalow situated on the sought after "Summer Hayes" development in a cul-de-sac location.

King Edward Street, Darlaston Green



EPC E

£130,000

A well presented three bedroom semi detached home situated on a popular road moments from Darlaston Town Centre.

Overdale Drive, Walsall



Awaiting EPC

Offers Over £110,000

A rarely available two bedroom semi detached house with garage on the sought after Briarsleigh development.

Mill Lane, Willenhall



EPC E

£90,000

A well presented two bedroom end terrace home situated on the sought after Mill Lane with the benefit of gated rear driveway parking.

King Edward Street, Darlaston



EPC E

£90,000

Refurbished Victorian property benefitting from a new kitchen and a bathroom. Viewing highly recommended.

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Severn Road Walsall



£89,950

NO UPWARD CHAIN/OPEN TOO OFFERS AND MUST BE SOLD!. Three bedroom end of terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises, lounge, modern fitted kitchen/diner, guest W.C, conservatory, three bedrooms, family bathroom, block paved driveway providing off road parking and rear garden. Energy rating C.

Windmill Street Wednesbury



£99,995

Located within this popular area is this good sized two bedroom mid terraced family home. The accommodation with gas central heating and UPVC double glazing briefly includes, lounge, kitchen and separate spacious dining room. To the first floor the landing has two double bedrooms and a modern bathroom, including shower cubicle and separate bath. Whilst outside the property boasts an enclosed rear garden. Energy rating C.

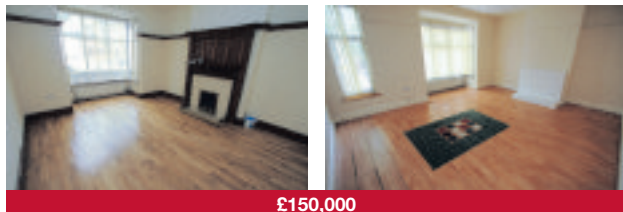
Arundel Street Walsall



£149,995

Improved and upgraded four bedroom detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This spacious property further comprises reception hall, lounge dining room, extended fitted kitchen, ground floor family bathroom, three bedrooms, first floor family bathroom, attic room (bedroom four), front and rear gardens. Energy Rating D

Somerford Place



£150,000

●●REDUCED FOR QUICK SALE●● Good sized four bedroom end of terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining room, sitting room, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom (with additional shower cubicle), guest W.C, four good sized bedrooms, upstairs shower room and good size rear garden. Energy rating D

Spring Road Sheffield



£125,000

An improved and upgraded semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This lovely property further comprises, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, rear lobby, family bathroom with separate W.C, three bedrooms, attic room, communal parking nearby and rear garden with outbuilding (previously gym & office). Energy rating E.

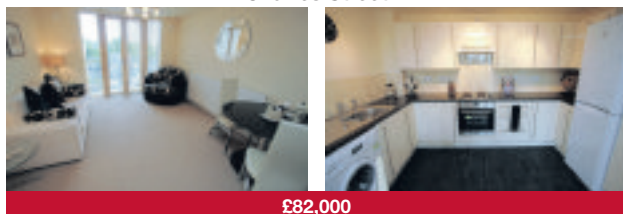
Planetree Road Walsall



£109,995

A two bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, porch, reception hall, through lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, side entry with guest W.C, two double bedrooms, family bathroom with Jacuzzi and additional shower cubicle, front and rear gardens and enclosed off road parking. Energy rating E.

Charles Street



£82,000

Brand new Award Winning Development of superb shared ownership modern apartments having the benefit of double glazing and central heating. These lovely properties further comprise reception hall, modern open plan lounge/kitchen with balcony, two bedrooms, ensuite, family bathroom with shower and parking space. ●●PLEASE CALL FOR FURTHER DETAILS●●THESE PROPERTIES ARE ONLY PURCHASED ON HELP TO BUY SCHEME/ SHARED OWNERSHIP OR OUTRIGHT BUY●●

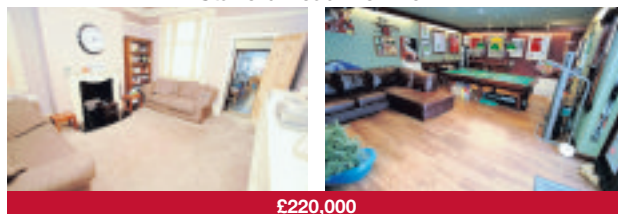
12-18 Marsh Street Walsall



£89,995

Located within the heart of Walsall and offering easy access to bus and train station, is this large two double bedroom second floor apartment. The property has a spacious living area and reception hall, modern fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, shower room. The apartment also benefits from an entry phone, intruder alarm, double glazing, electric central heating and a communal lift within the block. Currently rented out at 7499pcm until Jan 2014. Energy rating B.

Stafford Road Bloxwich



£220,000

Spacious and well presented four bedroom period semi detached property. With gas central heating, double glazed windows and many period style features includes, welcoming entrance hall, cellar which is currently used as an office, lounge/dining room, modern kitchen/breakfast room, large L shaped conservatory, four bedrooms, spacious bathroom with shower cubicle. Outside there is a large drive with parking for several cars, to the rear of the property there is a large garden with a newly constructed separate two story building which is currently used as a games room. Energy rating E.

Field Road Bloxwich



£84,995

Improved and refurbished three bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of gas central heating, no upward chain, new carpets and fresh decoration throughout. This splendid property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, refitted kitchen, refitted bathroom, separate W.C, three bedrooms with dressing area (used previous as a fourth bedroom) and front and rear gardens. Energy rating D.

Oak Road Sheffield



£115,950

A much improved and upgraded two bedroom semi detached family home. Ideal for the first time buyer or investor whilst befitting from majority UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely well presented property further comprises, reception hall, spacious through lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, side covered entrance, utility room, two double bedrooms, bathroom, good sized rear garden with patio, off road parking and garden to front. Energy rating E.

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WOOD LANE, SHORT HEATH

Four Bedroom Detached Property Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Further Separate Lounge/Diner, Open Plan Kitchen/Diner, Utility Area, Ground Floor W.C., Four Double Bedrooms With Built-In Wardrobes, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Garage, Generous Rear Garden And Off Road Parking.

£249,995



WOOD LANE CL, SHORT HEATH

Superb Three Bedroom Detached Dormer Bungalow Comprising Of Spacious Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Ground Floor Shower Room, Family Bathroom With Jacuzzi Bath C/Heating, D/Glazing, Rear Garden, Garage & Driveway.

£240,000



ESSINGTON RD, ESSINGTON

Extended Four Bedroom Three Storey End Terraced Property Having Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Ground Floor W.C., Kitchen/Diner, Separate Utility, Master With Fitted Wardrobes & Shower, Family Bathroom, Study, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Garage & Driveway. MUST VIEW.

£189,995



LITTLE ISLAND DR, WILLENHALL

Three Storey Three Bed Semi Detached Property Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Sitting Room/Bedroom Three, Ground Floor W.C., Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, En-Suite Shower Room, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Garage.

£153,995



SQUIRES GROVE, NEW INVENTION

Two Bed Mid Town House Property Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Lounge, Two Bedrooms, En-Suite, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Brick Bin Store, Enclosed Rear Garden And Two Allocated Parking Spaces.

£122,500



HIGH ROAD, WILLENHALL

Well Presented Characterful Detached Property Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility, Three Good Sized Bedrooms, Bathroom, Cellar, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Secure Fenced Communal Area To The Rear, Great FTB Or BTL Investment. MUST VIEW.

£114,995



STROUD AVENUE, WILLENHALL

Two Bed Mid Town House Property Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Lounge With Open Plan Staircase, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Parking For Two Vehicles. Ideal First Time Buy, Viewing Recommended!

£114,995



CEDAR ROAD, WILLENHALL

Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow Comprising Of Hallway, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Two Good Sized Bedrooms, Bathroom, Utility Area, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden, Brick Outbuilding. Viewings Recommended! No Chain!

£99,995



GIPSY LANE, WILLENHALL

Three Bed Mid Terraced Property Having Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing. Close To Willenhall Town Centre Giving Access To Good Local Amenities, Schools and Transport Links. Great Investment Property.

£78,995



CROFT STREET, WILLENHALL

Two Bed Mid Terraced Property Comprising Of Two Reception Rooms, Cellar, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Vehicle Access Leading To The Rear Providing Two Off Road Parking Spaces with Enclosed Rear Garden.

£79,995



KEYSMITH CL, WILLENHALL

Well Presented Ground Floor Apartment Comprising Of Communal Entrance Hall, Private Hallway, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Allocated Parking And Being Close To Good Schools, Transport Links And Amenities.

£79,995



LINDEN CLOSE, BENTLEY

Two Bed Maisonette Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway, Modern Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, Electric Heating, Secure Fenced Communal Area To The Rear, Great FTB Or BTL Investment.

£79,995



REGENT ST, WILLENHALL

Well Presented Two Bed End Terraced Property Having Two Reception Rooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Cul-De-Sac Location. IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY.

£82,000



SQUIRES GR, NEW INVENTION

Two Bed Modern First Floor Apartment Having Communal Entrance Hall, Private Hallway, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, Electric Heating, UPVC Double Glazing And Allocated Parking.

£89,995



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Motoring



Just 500 Audi of the TTS limited editions will be built and 120 will be sold in the United Kingdom

New limited edition TT marks 500,000 sales

THE Audi TT has reached the landmark sales figure of 500,000 since it was first launched in 1998, and Audi is celebrating with the arrival of a TTS limited edition model.

Priced from £38,860 for the coupé and £42,320 for the roadster, the TTS limited edition comes with exclusive Nimbus Grey paint for the coupé and Imola Yellow for the roadster.

Only 120 TTS limited edition models will make it to the UK out of 500 built in total.

Both versions of the Limited Edition have 19-inch alloy wheels as standard, along with grey leather upholstery, rear parking sensors, satellite navigation and a Bose stereo system. In total,

the limited edition has £5,665 worth of extra equipment included for a price increase of £2,815 over a standard TTS model.

Performance remains the same as for the standard TTS, so both coupé and Roadster come with a 268bhp turbocharged 2.0-litre petrol engine coupled to either six-speed manual or twin-clutch S tronic gearboxes.

From rest to 62mph takes 5.3 seconds and each car has a top speed of 155mph.

The production of the 500,000th Audi TT underscores the success of the compact sports car, which debuted as a coupé in 1998 and as a roadster the year after.

The TT set standards not only for its design purity but also for its technol-

ogy, which included 'downsized' turbocharged engines, quattro all-wheel drive for the high-end models and the six-speed S tronic transmission, which debuted in the range in 2003.

The second generation model, which followed in 2006, marked the first time that Audi succeeded in reversing the weight spiral.

Thanks to its ASF (Audi Space Frame) body, which is made predominantly of aluminium, the new version weighs as much as 90 kilograms less than its predecessor. The low weight enables strong performance with very low fuel consumption. Another Audi innovation was the TT 2.0 TDI quattro: the world's first premium-segment sports car with a powerful diesel engine and all-wheel drive.

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Motoring



Inside changes include a move for electronic brake



Outside, the latest Outback from Subaru has new alloy wheels and headlamps



The new auto gearbox is a perfect match for the low down pulling power of a diesel

Subaru is now travelling on the right track

By Ian Donaldson

YOU can't fault the honesty of a boss when he says the business 'has recently emerged from a rather dark period.' If only everyone was as frank.

The company in question is Subaru, makers of Japanese cars which consistently plough their own engineering furrow, appealing like crazy to a limited number of buyers.

Too limited in recent years, by far, hindered by Japanese currency so strong it made the cars expensive in the UK and by a model range that lagged behind the times. If you still associate Subaru with blue and gold cars of the turbo-nutter variety, then please think again. The glory days of world rally championship wins are long gone as we turn green and eco.

There are hints we might see something in the go-faster mould in 2014 but, if it arrives here at all, sales will be tiny compared to the several thousand Imprezas that Subaru used to shift each year in the UK.

Nowadays the great bulk of Subaru buyers opt for more sensible transport offered in the likes of the Legacy, Forester and the car tested here, the latest Outback.

It's really a slightly jacked up Legacy with a bit of attitude and none the worse for that. With permanent all-wheel drive and engine laid flat to keep the weight low, this is a Subaru in the old tradition of super-sensible design.

Add in a diesel engine that promises decent economy and, a first for the company, a clever automatic transmission as standard and you have a car that remains interesting enough to claim its Subaru heritage with pride.

Indicators

This latest Outback has been mildly worked over outside, with new alloy wheels and headlamps to the fore, while inside you'll find the electronic parking brake moved from the depths of the dashboard to the central console, where it should have been in the first place.

In another move that shows Subaru listens to its customers, the indicators now give three flashes at a gentle tap of the stalk. European cars have had this useful overtaking feature for years but it's good to know Japan is catching up.

Look hard and you'll also discover new part leather seats and revised instruments that are easier to read.

Subaru has been looking at the bits you can't see too, with firmer suspension aimed at making the car a bit more positive to drive without ruining the ride.

So a pretty thorough makeover, and a lot more than the new colours and wheels that other makers get excited about when it's time to refresh a model range midway through its life.

Out on varied and quite demanding choice of North Yorkshire roads, the latest Outback soon showed why it's a long time favourite of people like vets and farmers who need to go places when the roads turn slippery.

They don't need a car to tackle mountain peaks or cross roaring torrents, just something that will get them to end of a remote lane (and back) when there's a pressing need to be out in dreadful weather.

Well, in Yorkshire sunshine and showers the Outback was a relaxed charmer. Its new auto gearbox is a perfect match for the lowdown pulling power of a diesel and we made smooth and rapid progress.

Only occasionally did the newly firmed suspension feel a bit pattery but the newfound sharpness to the steering more than compensated.

The Subaru boss happily told me 'we're back in the black again' and this latest Outback will only add to the bottom line.

Bumper to bumper

Subaru Outback 2.0D SX Lineaertronic
Engine: 2.0 litre 150hp diesel
Warranty: Five years or 100,000 miles
Economy: The Outback can reach 44.8mpg officially
Insurance group: 21
Price: £31,495

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Index

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- 3 Home & Services
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- 5 Business & Farming
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- 8 Motoring
- 9 Local Information
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3

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Lockmen battle on to grab a vital point

**Willenhall 1
Wellington Ams 1**
THE Lockmen produced a battling performance to claim a vital point at home to mid-table Wellington.

Manager Matt Whitehouse had one training session and saw little reason to make major changes.

Willenhall played into a howling wind and driving rain in the first half and had to wait until the 43rd minute for their best chance, when Jake Morgan narrowly missed connecting with a ball across the box.

The Reds rode their luck at the start of the second period as Sam Archer-Plane missed an open goal before Mick Williams did likewise, hitting a post, then a defender deflected over when it seemed easier to score.

However, the home side kept their nerve and broke the deadlock.

Morgan had already seen one effort blocked before a free-kick curled into the area saw the striker send the keeper the wrong way with his low shot.

The visitors levelled when Saul Williams, always a danger, was left unmarked at a corner and his low volley beat Steve Booth.

Efforts from sub Lee Smith and Eddie Wilson went narrowly wide as Willenhall went close to three points but a point will be more than welcome.

Mo-losing as misery continues

Tamworth 4 Bloxwich 3
BLOXWICH Mens First team's run of poor results continued with a disappointing loss to a well-drilled Tamworth hockey team.

With Bloxwich players sporting wispy hairs on their upper lips to mark the start of Mo-ember, they went into the game full of confidence after a hard week at training.

When Tamworth went into a 2-0 lead early on in the game Bloxwich responded very well with Matt Baldwin scoring from a short corner and then from the flick spot to bring the scores level.

After half time Bloxwich pressured a shaken Tamworth team but could not find that final touch in their D.

A defending error at the back gave Tamworth the break they were after and they built on this to score two more goals.

A consolation goal from Adam Baldwin at the death of the game gave Tamworth a 3-4 win and left Bloxwich feeling very hard done to.

Darts contest pub pre-party

WOLVERHAMPTON'S Cleveland Arms will stage a prelude to the city's Grand Slam of Darts with a pre-party the night before the tournament begins at the Civic Hall.

The incomparable Bobby George and PDC pro Colin Lloyd will serve as exhibition players on Friday, with a host of Grand Slam players expected to turn up for the evening's festivities.

The likes of 2010 Grand Slam winner Scott Waites, Mark Walsh, Tony O'Shea and Brendan Dolan normally pop in while expect to see Bobby's son Richie George. The event will raise funds for the Poppy Appeal. Tickets are £3 on 01902 451 021.

Close score sees Aldridge skin the victory

Aldridge 13 Essington 12
ALDRIDGE got off to a bright start in the rearranged league fixture versus Essington.

Against the elements, virtually from the kick-off they forced an attacking lineup on the visitors' 22.

The ball was fed to No.10 Ben Drinkwater who took the direct route holding off tackles to touch down midway out.

Then it was all change. Essington using the conditions to good affect moved play on to Aldridge's try line.

With their forwards well in the ascendancy and winning loads of possession they had the home side under siege for much of the half - exerting plenty of pressure without being able to make the final yard to the try line.

Numerous chances went begging but a determined defence held out until the 20th minute when Essington flanker Andy Barker eventually breached the line.

The restart gave a brief respite for the home side but the

Rugby

status quo was soon restored, Aldridge almost immediately falling back on to the defensive.

With possession to spare Essington strove to bring their backs into play, which paid dividends.

A move through the hands put No.10 Adam Smith over midway out and he also added the extras.

That made it 12-5 to Essington at the break.

But Aldridge now had the benefit of the elements and

wasted no time in turning it into territorial advantage.

The forwards were still struggling though and possession remained a problem. It took another intervention by Drinkwater to bring Aldridge right back in contention.

Gaggle

A jinking run took him through the middle of a gaggle of forwards presenting him with a clear run to the line - touching down out-wide.

Aldridge now gaining in confidence strove to secure the

result but Essington managed to push play away from the danger zone and gain inroads into Aldridge territory.

There were 10 minutes left when Aldridge won a penalty out wide just inside the visitors half.

A sweet strike from full back Alex Yates put the ball high between the posts with plenty to spare, reclaiming the narrowest of leads for the home side.

The final few minutes were fraught but Aldridge clung on to claim the valuable league points.

Late goal is enough to stop Pics' Cup dreams

Rushall Olympic 0 AFC Fylde 1
A GOAL two minutes from time ended Rushall Olympic's interest in this season's FA Trophy.

Fylde's Bradley Barnes was left unmarked to head past Pics keeper Chris Gemmell and send the Coasters into the next round.

Manager Neil Kitching made several changes to the home line-up, looking for a positive reaction to the poor home display the side gave last Tuesday when they went down to a 2-0 defeat at the hands of Stamford in a league match.

Into the side came Jimmy Turner, Zac Martin, Mitchell Tolley, Carl Palmer and Ahmed Obeng.

The first real opportunity came on 13 minutes when Fylde's Michael Barnes got to the bye-line and pulled the ball back only for Adam Sumner to shoot over.

As the visitors kept up the pressure they were awarded a free-kick on the edge of the area, but Gemmell pushed Dorney's shot away.

Skipper Gavin Caines then came to his side's rescue by clearing a cross from Dave Hankin but as the half drew to a close the home side began to come into the game a little and created what was probably the best chance of the half.

After winning a corner the ball dropped for Obeng in the six-yard box, but the striker couldn't make a good enough contact, and Ben Hinchcliffe was able to save easily.

The second half saw the home side enjoy more of the game but they failed to make the most of it and were restricted to a couple of shots from Zac Martin which flew over the bar.

Kristian Ramsey-Dickson, then set up a shooting opportunity for Tom Eckersley whose first-time effort was only just over and then another Martin corner caused problems for the Fylde defence but Obeng's

Football

shot cleared the bar. In a rare attack Fylde were awarded another free-kick in a dangerous position when Jimmy Turner fouled the lively Danny Lloyd but Gemmell was once again equal to Dorney's attempt.

On 71 minutes, Fylde should have taken the lead. Lloyd got to the ball, ahead of Turner, but with only Gemmell to beat he blazed his shot wildly over the bar.

There was another opportunity six minutes later when another Dorney free-kick was parried by Gemmell straight back to Lloyd whose shot was deflected for a corner.

Dorney then went on a great run, beating three Pics defenders, before wasting a great opportunity by shooting wide.

Just as the game appeared to be heading for a stalemate, and a replay, the visitors grabbed the winning goal.

A slight hesitation from Caines saw Michael Barnes cross to the far post, Lloyd headed back into the middle and there was Bradley Barnes to beat Gemmell.

Rushall Olympic: Gemmell, Turner, Martin, Tolley, Caines, Downes, Palmer, Eckersley, Adenbola, Ramsey-Dickson, Obeng (Mugisha 78).

Subs not used: Daniel, Craddock, Charlton, Spink

Walsall squad keep their winning streak going



Walsall's Roger Weston on a try-scoring run pursued by Shillians during the match

Shillians 19 Walsall 26
WALSALL secured their fourth consecutive victory with a hard fought encounter at Solihull.

This was their first ever visit to the Copt Heath ground and their opponents were keen to show why they had achieved promotion last season.

The visitors to their credit repelled the early pressure and soon produced some very effective ball carries into Sills territory. Some neat passing saw winger Dave Pitt make two strong runs in as many minutes.

But the strong wind made it difficult to run and pass with any accuracy and both teams concentrated on gaining position through kicking or close support play.

During the first quarter, Walsall dictated the pattern of the game with some good ball retention as they made ground into opposing territory.

During this period they were awarded three penalties which Roger Weston dispatched with laudable accuracy for a 9-0 advantage.

The hosts then put Walsall under a great deal of pressure but the Sils were restricted to a solitary Hawkins penalty.

However, Walsall increased their lead immediately after this score, as flanker Max Hughes caught the restart kick and sprinted over for a spectacular try from 35 metres which Weston converted.

The first half came to a close Hawkins added another kick to make it 6-16 at the interval.

It was a similar story at the start of the second half as, what seemed a good piece of dispossessing was penalised, and Hawkins closed the gap to seven points.

They eventually managed to score

a try, although it proved to be a highly controversial decision as the try scorer Powell seemed to be tackled into touch prior to the touchdown.

Fly half Matt Wood and centre Roger Weston then combined brilliantly, with a well-timed switch pass sending Weston on a 20 metre run to score under the posts. He then added the easy conversion.

As the game reached the final ten minutes, the hosts closed the gap once more as captain Pete Nicholls went over for a try.

But Wood ensured that his team would finish the game in opposition territory. He then turned the pressure into points with a drop goal from 25 metres to seal another win for his team. This Saturday Stoke will be the visitors to Delves Road.

All matches kick off at 2.15pm from now on.

Seconds slaughter opposition with 83pts

WALSALL'S 2nd XV overwhelmed Wolverhampton 2nds 83-0 in their Reserve League match.

The blend of youth and experience proved to be a real strength for the team.

Jordan Lay scored three tries. Two each for Matt Craddock and Tony Lay.

Other scorers were Billy Baines, Laured Kalari, Connor McGurik and Jamie Hickman.

There was also victory for Walsall's 3rd XV in their league match at Wolverhampton.

They had a comfortable 48-0 result. Try scorers were Francesco Perozzo (2), Gavin Jones (2), Mario Tamilio, Elliott Clarke, Connor Pitt and Kieran Smith. Kevin Pitt kicked four conversions.

It was also a super performance by Walsall Colts on Sunday afternoon.

They overcame a physically powerful Kidderminster side to win 25-19.

The Walsall team tackled ferociously throughout the game with captain Connor McGurik and Liam Taylor setting a fine example. But they face their most severe test this Sunday at Dudley Kingswinford.

Satleians U-15s 5 Walsall U-5s 10; Walsall U-13s 36 Wolverhampton U-13s 12.

Freemans draw with Lions side

Lichfield and Walsall District Football League Premier A

Freemans FC 1 A C Lions 1
Premier B
Cannock Wood 1 Erdington Star 0

League One
Pelsall Villa Colts 0 Longhorn FC 7; Stonnall FC 2 Burntwood Star 2

League Two
Swan FC 1 Duke of Wellington 3; Tridert FC 1 Trent Valley Rovers 1

League Three
Hussey Arms 2 Dog FC 0; Turmpike FC 2 Alma FC 1; Walsall Phoenix 5 Boatmans Rest 1

League Four
Bowman FC 0 Oak Park Rangers 10; Cellar Door 1 Wych Elm 1; Queens FC 0 Eximius Warriors 4

Lichfield Challenge Cup Round One
Longdon Chet 0 Pelsall Villa FC 4

Lichfield Charity Cup Round Two

Brownhills Comm. 1 Breton Social Lion 3; Paradise FC 1 Chase Spartans 9; Prince of Wales 10 Doshill Rangers 1.

Luke called up for squad

A WALSALL Academy student has been selected for Greater Birmingham's representative rugby squad.

Luke Reynolds was one of eight Sutton Coldfield RFC U13 players to have been selected to attend Worcester Warriors' Developing Player Program.

This is the first step toward the elite player program and premiership club academies that the RFU developed, whereby, the premiership clubs and county unions work together to identify probable future international players.

Luke moved to Sutton Coldfield RFC from Willenhall RFC in the 2010/11 season. Since moving to he has won Coaches Player of the season.

Wood's fourth away without conceding

Coleshill Town 0 Walsall Wood 0

WOOD made it four away games without conceding a goal but couldn't make the breakthrough to take all three points.

For the first 15 minutes Coleshill kept Wood under almost constant pressure but with nothing to show for all their endeavours.

Wood in fact had the first clear cut chance on 18 minutes, a left wing corner was played back to Harry Harris and his ball into the box wouldn't drop for Lewis Taylor Boyce but he eventually brought the ball under control and laid it back to Corey Curritthers to hit a first time effort high and wide.

Four minutes later Curritthers raced clear wide right, crossed into the box, the ball held up in the wind but was finally collected by Harris who fired just over. Then on 30

minutes a right wing corner was half cleared to Harris his first time effort hit a defender's hand but loud penalty appeals were ignored.

On 35 minutes Chris Gummery ran at the Wood defence and played the ball out wide right to find Matthew Brown, his far post cross taken at full stretch by Andy Hughes under pressure from Gummery.

Two minutes later Ashley Bradshaw released Daniel Holgate into the left of the box, Wood skipper Lee Stretton racing across to make a superbly timed tackle.

On 44 minutes Curritthers appeared to have headed Wood in front from a right wing corner, but an eagle-eyed assistant had spotted he punched the ball home.

Three minutes into the second half Curritthers fed Hancox on the right of the box, his low cross beat keeper Hathaway, but

Luke Edwards calmly cleared the danger.

Holgate crossed from the left, Gummery got in a header but Hughes made the save look easy.

A neat move through the centre a minute later ended with Dean Rathbone playing a through ball into the box, Hughes out quickly to deny Gummery.

Back came Wood immediately, Curritthers cutting in from the right, going through two tackles only to fire over.

On 73 minutes Rathbone raced on to a ball on the right of the box, Stretton moved across to take the ball away before clearing the danger. Four minutes later Daniel Smith raced clear on the Wood right, crossed to the far post and Harris stooped to plant a header wide. With 80 minutes gone and Chris Lloyd cut in from wide left and fired high over for

the hosts. Two minutes later Smith found Harris in the box, his tight turn and low drive saw Hathaway make a full-length dive to fingertip the ball round his right hand post, from the corner a powerful header by Anthony Juxon crashed off the bar and back out to Shawn Boothe, his low drive was blocked.

On 87 minutes Taylor Boyce worked his way inside from wide right, Hathaway making a full length near post block.

A minute later Smith played the ball inside from wide right to find Dave Carns, he cleverly turned his marker, but his low drive was well saved by Hathaway.

It's 10 points from their last four away games and another clean sheet for Wood. Tipton Town away on Saturday November 9.

SPORT

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Late goal doom
Single score is enough
to stop Pics' cup hopes
Page 43

Win streak
Rugby squad keep
unbeaten run
Page 43



e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Decisions are done with says – Smith

DEAN SMITH claimed Walsall won't dwell on the refereeing decisions he believes have cost them points in the past two games.

But the Saddlers boss confirmed he sought out referee Dean Whitestone to discuss two key calls which went against his side in Saturday's 1-0 defeat at MK Dons.

Smith felt the game hinged on two decisions, the first when the Northamptonshire official adjudged Adam Chambers to have fouled MK striker Patrick Bamford and subsequently awarded the free-kick from which Shaun Williams scored the game's only goal.

Then in stoppage time Andy Butler had an equaliser ruled out by the assistant referee for a dubious foul.

But Smith, who felt his side should have had a penalty in last week's 1-0 defeat to Coventry, says it won't affect the way his players approach games.

"It just makes it harder to take when we lose because of something we can't control," he said.

"It's the way it goes sometimes."

"One thing you don't want to do is ask your players to go down a bit better when they do get fouled – that is not what we are about," added Smith.

Whitehouse is new boss

WILLENHALL TOWN have appointed Matt Whitehouse as manager for the rest of the season.

Whitehouse, a former Willenhall player and head coach replaces Neil Perks, who stood down last week after an 8-0 defeat to former landlords Sporting Khalsa.

Ex-Oldbury United and Rushall Olympic player Whitehouse spent last season as coach at Blackwood in the Midland Combination.

He rejoined the Lockmen at the start of this season as head coach, but left in September to rejoin Blackwood as a player.

UEFA 'A' licensed coach Mark Cox, who is linked with colleges in the Wolverhampton area, is Whitehouse's assistant.

Cox worked for four years at Stoke City's academy, and was an assistant manager at Chorley and St Helens Town.

Wolves can handle what league can dish out

Wolves 2 Stevenage 0

NO matter what League One keeps throwing in front of them, Kenny Jackett's team appear to have the capacity to deal with it.

However, Saturday's defeat of a spirited, committed, organised but ultimately limited Stevenage outfit offered yet further signals that Wolves are still not running at full pelt.

There is, you sense, a lot more to come from a group of players who are revelling in, and not recoiling from, the challenge of being every other team's most prized scalp this season.

Like Crawley before them, Stevenage rep-

Football

resented first-time opponents and that said as much about the impressive advances of the visitors as it did the calamities of their hosts. But from the outset of this season, Jackett has spoken about dealing with all of League One's many and varied challenges and "finding a way to win" – and his team did so for the 11th time in 14 games.

On Saturday Jackett switched captain Ricketts to right-back and Richard Stearman partnered Bath in the centre, but it was an adjustment executed in the unflustered style to which Wolves fans are now

accustomed. They are also familiar with early goals from their team and Doyle's far-post finish, from a Sako cross after his marker Jimmy Smith had bounced off the Frenchman and then been left by his acceleration, must have been unnerving for Stevenage.

They hung on in there, with some stout defending and lax finishing by Wolves, to eventually return the compliment to the home side with their best phase of the game midway through the second half.

Ikeme – who is proving every bit as important a match-winner as Griffiths – came to the rescue with saves which twice denied

Francois Zoko. Wolves had frittered away so many good positions, something Jackett knows has to improve, but were eventually able to summon O'Hara for a token 10 minutes after Henry had been played clear by the excellent Lee Evans and applied a measured finish.

O'Hara received a mixed response – perhaps 70-30 in his favour – which after all this time shows last season's transgressions are not forgiven lightly even when the mood is so radically different.

The bigger problem for the redemption-seeking player, however, will be claiming a place in this new team.

Player is aiming for cup cheer

ADAM CHAMBERS is looking to FA Cup derby glory to help Walsall get over their current League One blues.

The Saddlers have lost their last two games but get a break from league action this Saturday when they host rivals Shrewsbury Town in the first round.

Midfielder Chambers believes Dean Smith's side could not be facing a better fixture as they look to get back on track following 1-0 defeats to both Coventry and MK Dons.

"It's a good one to go into off the back of the last two games," he said. "The lads will be raring to go and looking to try and get through to the next round."

"It's a good one for the fans as well and we are looking forward to it."

While the last two results may not have gone to plan, the Saddlers remain ninth in League One and a push for the play-offs remains a key aim this season.

But Chambers says it does not mean the players will be taking their eye off the ball for the cup and Saturday's tie holds a significant financial incentive, with the winners pocketing £18,000 in prize money.

Free entry offer for the military

THIS Saturday will see the first league meeting in more than 10 years between Tipton and Walsall Wood.

This match is on Remembrance weekend, and anyone with a forces ID card or a veteran's badge can get into Tipton Sports Academy for free. The offer extends to members of the uniformed emergency services – police, fire, ambulance and TA.

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DEAN CRIES FOUL AS THE MK DONS DO IT

MK Dons 1 Walsall 0

ONCE again Walsall were on the wrong end of a 1-0 defeat – and again manager Dean Smith was left crying foul.

A week on from the loss to Coventry which left the Saddlers boss claiming his side should have had a penalty, Smith was left scratching his head at two decisions which proved pivotal at Stadium MK. Except this time, he had some support from his opposite number.

Dons boss Karl Robinson also felt referee Dean Whitestone's decision to blow for a foul when Adam Chambers challenged Patrick Bamford was harsh, even though the resulting free-kick led to the only goal of the game from Shaun Williams.

To make matters worse for the visitors, Smith felt his side were robbed of an equaliser in stoppage time when skipper Andy Butler was penalised, even though he appeared to be the man being fouled.

Frustrating

It all added up to another frustrating afternoon for the visitors, who have been brought back down to earth in the past two games after their scintillating win at Swindon.

If anything, the Saddlers' last fortnight has been proof if any was needed of just how competitive League One is this season.

Three games against teams with promotion aspirations have heralded a return of one brilliant win and two niggling defeats.

The manager and players now get a two-week break from the league campaign with an FA Cup clash with Shrewsbury to look forward

Football

to, and it's perhaps a good time to assess where things stand at the moment.

We know, from their performances and results against the likes of Wolves, Leyton Orient and Swindon, the Saddlers are a good side – occasionally very good. The goalkeeper and defence seem solid, the midfield looks strong and there is competition for places all over the park.

But there remains a nagging sense something is missing, one final piece of the jigsaw which isn't quite there.

Increasingly, that missing piece appears to be in the striking department.

Smith has already addressed, more than once, the central forward question and continually backed the current hitmen.

However, it is in tight games like Saturday's where any lack of firepower or cutting edge is most keenly felt.

Of course, Smith could point to the fact his side did score through Butler, only to see it disallowed. Regardless, the manager appears determined to stick with what he's got and only time will tell whether he is proved right or wrong.



Andy Butler scores with this header but is alleged to have fouled stand-in keeper Ian McLoughlin

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